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Surveyors to work at Har Homa today

By ELLI WOHLGELERTER

The long-awaited construction on Har Homa is set to begin today, according to a government source, with surveyors expected to arrive this morning to begin charting the land for a squadron of bulldozers that are standing ready nearby. The source said the bulldozers will likely start work no later than tomorrow.

No-confidence motion defeated, Page 2 US warns of terror, Page 2

"I hope and believe that construction on Har Homa will begin tomorrow," Interior Minister Elihu Shalev was quoted by Itim as saying in Eilat, where he was attending a conference. "We decided to begin this week and we will not retreat from that decision. When a decision in principle is made, we have an obligation to follow through."

"We took the possibility of disturbances into account. We don't have much to lose, while the other side does."

In anticipation of the government's decision, the first of many protests that are sure to confront the construction over the next two years got under way yesterday, when Palestinian leader Faisal Hussein and a dozen Palestinians pitched tents on a hilltop facing Har Homa.

"We decided we will have a tent here to watch what is going on over there," Hussein said, pointing towards Har Homa. "If they start building, we will use all peaceful means to stop them, starting by making phone calls, talking to people who are responsible for these matters. We will stand in front of the bulldozers - whatever we can do in a peaceful way, we're going to do."

About 100 soldiers were stationed near the tents, but they only watched the peaceful protest and the waves of media that ascended the hill.

More demonstrations are expected to follow the ground breaking, with Peace Now planning a large demonstration at 4 p.m. on the day the bulldozers begin.

Hussein said Palestinians are very angry at the planned construction. "Israelis are using explosive materials to incite the people. Every day they are coming with a new provocation. They are pushing toward an explosion, but I don't know when, how, what will be the direct reasons. But there are many indirect reasons," he said.

He said the atmosphere felt like it did in the days before the intifada. "I can smell the same scents we smelled before the uprising," he said.

The protest came on the day that final status talks between Israel and the Palestinians were to resume. Jawad Boulos, the legal adviser for Orient House, said he was "very sad to see that instead of going further in the final stage [of talks], the Israelis are attempting to take such provocative actions."

He said the gathering on the hilltop was "a matter of protesting, nothing more, to put this issue on the daily agenda of the people."

To head off any possible trouble, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai yesterday ordered forces deployed along the perimeter in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

A Jerusalem police spokesman said last night that police are prepared for any eventuality "once the decision is made to begin construction."



IDF soldiers yesterday approach a tent Palestinians set up opposite Har Homa to protest against construction plans for the Jerusalem hilltop. (Reuters)

Hizbullah says it's looking for Arad

By DAVID RUDGE

Hizbullah is trying to determine the whereabouts of missing IAF navigator Ron Arad, according to the organization's leader Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah.

He maintained in an interview with the new Beirut English-language *Daily Star* that Hizbullah is anxious to locate Arad in order to exchange him for Lebanese prisoners held by Israel.

Nasrallah indicated that the organization is not holding Arad, but wishes to make a deal with his captors that also would lead to the release of Lebanese prisoners.

He also criticized the ineffectual efforts of the Lebanese government and the international community to secure the prisoners' release.

Nasrallah said that German mediator Bernd Schmidbauer would return to the region the minute there is information on Arad's whereabouts.

Schmidbauer, German Chancellor Helmut Kohl's top intelligence adviser, was responsible for negotiating the deal that led to the return of the bodies of Yosef Fink and Rahamim Alsheikh last July.

The two were killed and their bodies taken by Hizbullah gunmen during an ambush on a joint IDF and South Lebanese Army convoy near Bint Jbeil in the security zone in 1986.

Their bodies and 17 SLA soldiers held by Hizbullah were exchanged for 45 Lebanese held in the El-Khiam jail in the security zone and the remains of 141 gunmen killed in clashes with the IDF and SLA since 1986.

"The [Schmidbauer] mission was a two-part series," Nasrallah said.

Continued on Page 3

HU researcher develops no-shot flu vaccine

By JUDY SIEGEL

The world's first influenza vaccine in the form of nose drops has been found safe and effective.

The successful clinical trials were announced yesterday by Prof. Zichria Zakay-Rones, a senior virologist at the Hebrew University-Hadassah School of Medicine, who headed a team that has worked on the new vaccine delivery system for six years.

The breakthrough vaccine, if manufactured on a mass scale, would be a boon, as many people at high-risk avoid getting a flu injection. One would merely need to get a few drops in the nose each year for protection.

Zakay-Rones said she didn't know when the nose-drop vaccine would become commercially available, as the process of getting

approval by the US Food and Drug Administration and other government bodies is expensive and laborious. However, she added, negotiations are currently being conducted by the university's research and development arm, Yissum, and an application for a US patent has been presented.

The vaccine previously was found effective against flu in mice; it now has been tested on 51 medical students, 24 of them given one dose and the others two doses. None suffered side effects, and a single dose was enough to provide immunity. Some of the students have expressed interest in participating in further trials next winter, which will involve more people, some of them over the

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Arafat rejects summit bid

By DAVID MAKOVSKY, LIAT COLLINS, and JON IMMANUEL

Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat apparently nixed a summit last night with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, despite an appeal yesterday by Jordanian Crown Prince Hassan and efforts by the US.

Netanyahu phoned Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak last night and briefed him on efforts to hold a meeting with Arafat, Itim reported. He told him no date for a meeting had been set.

US officials still hope Netanyahu will take "credible steps" to relieve tension with the Palestinians. Among the issues Arafat has complained about recently are: opening safe passage between the West Bank and Gaza (agreed upon by Israel in the Oslo Declaration of Principles in 1993); halting demolition of illegal Palestinian housing in Jerusalem and the West Bank; and halting expropriation of an estimated 10,000 dunams in the Kalkilya area for a quarry.

There will be no meeting unless Netanyahu agrees to freeze building plans on Har Homa, PA Justice Minister Fehil Abu Meddein said last night. "How can they meet if

the bulldozers go up Jabal Abu Ghneim [Har Homa]? We are not going to accept a bribe like opening the airport."

In talks between Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and PA Planning Minister Nabil Shaath, Arafat yesterday won permission to fly in and out of Gaza without security inspections for himself and his family. However, security arrangements at the airport have yet to be finalized for general air traffic.

Mordechai also promised to expedite safe passage arrangements between the West Bank and Gaza, for which the Palestinians have waited more than two years.

Palestinian newspapers yesterday were building up feverish excitement in anticipation of Israeli reaction to protests over work on Har Homa, describing tanks encircling towns, hospitals on maximum alert, and fears of an Israeli massacre. *Al-Ayyam*, the Ramallah daily, quoted senior Palestinian negotiators warning of the dangers and wrote of massacre fears in its headline.

Despite the warnings, hospitals contacted in the Bethlehem and Ramallah areas reported no change in their emergency procedures. Security sources say that while

contingency plans have been made in case of violent protests, tanks are not placed at the entrances to towns. "We are trying to maintain dialogue with our Palestinian colleagues, most importantly at the field level," one source said.

In Damascus, leaders of the Popular and Democratic Fronts for the Liberation of Palestine warned of attacks on Israeli targets if the bulldozers start working.

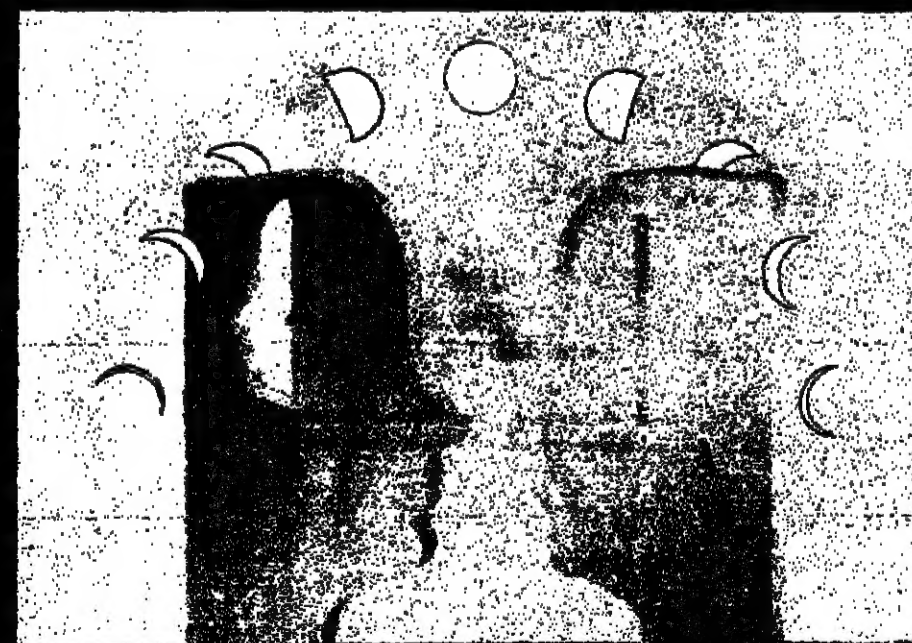
Crown Prince Hassan met with Arafat in Gaza yesterday to deliver a message from his brother King Hussein that Netanyahu is ready for talks. Hassan then phoned Netanyahu and reported on the meeting.

In the cabinet last Friday, ministers discussed the creation of 400 housing units for Palestinians in the eastern Jerusalem neighborhood of Sur Baher. The issue was passed on to the Housing Ministry, which is to present its recommendations at this Friday's cabinet meeting.

Speaking to coalition MKs before yesterday's no-confidence vote, Netanyahu repeated his promise that work would start on Har Homa this week. He added that if the Palestinians violate their obligation to refrain from violence,

Continued on Page 2

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No-confidence bid fails

By LIAT COLLINS

After debating whether to raise its no-confidence motion during the week of mourning for the Beit Shemesh schoolgirls, the Labor faction submitted a motion yesterday titled "The Government's Deficiencies." It was defeated, as expected, by 46 to 54.

Likud MK Ze'ev Begin was absent, having stated he has no confidence in the premier. Uzi Landau (Likud) and Zvi Hendel (National Religious Party) were also noticeably absent. Efraim Sneh, a candidate for the Labor party leadership, presented the motion, attacking Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's policies despite constant coalition heckling.

He said Har Homa should be built, "but wisely, through dialogue and taking the problems of the other side into account. Not through showing off and the obsession to reach a confrontation at any price to prove something."

He accused the prime minister of constantly giving in to pressure. "Ultimately, Har Homa will not be built; we'll be isolated internationally; there will be needless bloodshed; and the peace process will be stalled," Sneh said. "It might be good for the coalition, but not for the country or Jerusalem."

He said the prime minister is stuck in a trap trying to please both the world's leaders and his own coalition members.

In a dig at Netanyahu over the years he spent in the US, Sneh added: "The problem is we're not living in the Upper West Side of Manhattan, but in the Middle East."

Netanyahu, sitting in the plenum, dismissed Sneh's words with a wave of his hand.

Communications Minister Limor Livnat responded for the government, addressing Labor MKs who were leaving the chamber one by one. "I would have expected backup from the Labor

Party on all things relating to Jerusalem," she said. "I don't expect its support on everything." "The opposition is the opposition; that's democracy. But I do expect the Labor Party to act responsibly on Jerusalem. I hear Sneh talking about 'the need to take the other side into account,' [but] for me and most of the Labor Party members, I thought, with regard to Jerusalem, there is no other side. There is only one sovereign in Jerusalem and that's Israel."

The Labor faction argued for several hours yesterday over whether to follow Meretz's lead and not submit a no-confidence motion during the mourning period. On Sunday they decided to go ahead, but yesterday three MKs — Ori Orr, Avi Yehzekel, and Sofia Landver — had second thoughts.

"We need more unity during a week like this," said Orr, while Yehzekel said the party would appear in a bad light, particularly

among voters it is trying to recover who abandoned it in the last elections.

Hagai Merom rejected a suggestion the party wait a week, saying, "By then we might have reasons for another week of mourning."

Labor Party leader Shimon Peres criticized the critics, stating: "What's mourning got to do with it? If we say that bulldozers shouldn't start work [on Har Homa] does that harm the mourning? What is this? We keep delegitimizing ourselves. We're not holding a party in the Knesset. We're exercising our elementary right."

Uzi Baram complained that no member of the opposition was invited to accompany or meet with King Hussein on his visit on Sunday, saying the government had cynically exploited the king's condolence call. Faction chairman Ra'anana Cohen sent a letter of protest on the subject to the prime minister.

AT THE KNESSET

Eitan complains of Hebron sewage

By LIAT COLLINS

Environment Minister Raphael Eitan told the Knesset yesterday that sewage from the Hebron area is polluting groundwater supplies in the Beersheba and south Hebron Hills area. Hebron Mayor Mustafa Natshe refuses to operate a sewage treatment facility "for political reasons" on the grounds that some of the treated water would be used by Jewish farmers, Eitan said.

He also said the Palestinians are refusing to sign on a project under which the German government would finance a sewage treatment plant for Jerusalem, Bethlehem and Beit Sahur.

He said the government must find a way of forcing the Palestinian Authority to stop the

pollution, either by making it a condition in drinking water allocation or deducting money from the funds forwarded to the PA.

Bronfman: Interior Ministry must accept immigrants' birthdays

Yisrael Ba'aliya MK Roman Bronfman has submitted a bill which would force the Interior Ministry to accept the declared dates of birth of new immigrants. He said that lately the ministry has been arbitrarily recording the dates of birth of immigrants from those countries where there are no proper records, mainly putting the date down as January 1 even when the immigrants say they know the correct date.

"A birthday is part of a per-

son's identity," Bronfman said. "And you can't just dictate it."

Subcommittee aims for more efficient caucusing

The Knesset subcommittee on Knesset caucuses, chaired by MK Hagai Merom (Labor), met for the first time yesterday to discuss ways in which lobbying in the Knesset can be carried out to complement rather than circumvent Knesset committees.

Among other things, it was decided that when government officials are invited to address caucuses meeting the invitations will be shown to the relevant minister and committee head and it will be noted that the meeting is not a committee meeting.

In deep sorrow we announce the passing of my beloved husband, our father and grandfather

Dr LUDWIG WECHSLER

Hilda Wechsler
and all the family
Haifa, March 17, 1997

With deep sorrow we announce the passing of our beloved husband, dear father and grandfather

TEDDY (JOHN) WEISSMAN

The funeral will take place today, Tuesday, March 18, 1997 at the Herzliya cemetery at 11:30 a.m.

Wife: Barbara Weissman
Daughter and son-in-law: Mickey and Jonathan Bar-Gil
Grandchildren: Tali and Daniel Bar-Gil

Shiva at the Bar-Gil residence, Apt. 7, 18B Rehov Ha'Emek, Kfar Saba.



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honorary Ph.D. of the University, member of its Board of Governors and a long-standing, devoted friend of the institution and its mission

and expresses its condolences to his wife Ayala and the entire family



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The Staff of the Israel/Middle East Office

US: PA will permit terror if Har Homa goes ahead

DAVID MAKOVSKY

Members of Hamas emerged from a meeting with Palestinian Authority officials in Gaza on March ninth convinced that the PA would acquiesce to a terror attack against Israel if it went ahead and used bulldozers at Har Homa, US officials say.

Hamas' perception was reinforced immediately after that meeting when the PA released from prison Ibrahim Makadmeh, a leading Hamas militant and suspected terrorist.

At last Friday's cabinet meeting, cabinet-level sources say General Security Service head Ami Ayalon said Arafat, provisionally "gave the green light" to Hamas to conduct an attack as well as signalled to other Palestinian opposition groups to conduct protests against Israel if the Netanyahu government goes ahead with work at Har Homa. However, US officials are uncertain whether Arafat even attended the March ninth meeting.

When queried directly about whether he has issued such instructions, Arafat has denied doing so.

At his last meeting with Arafat several weeks ago, officials in the Prime Minister's Office say that Netanyahu complained about the release of 25 Islamic militants. Israel charges they were released against the recommendation of the Palestinian preventive security services, let alone Israeli security services.

MDA steps up sanctions

By JUDY SIEGEL

Magen David Adom's supply of blood to hospitals will be reduced starting today, as MDA workers protest against management's failure to pay a special allotment earned by hospital lab workers and biochemists. These sanctions may cause non-emergency operations to be postponed, the union said last night.

In addition, until further notice all MDA ambulances are going out on call only if a medic accompanies the driver/medic on his or her rounds. This reduces by half the number of available ambulances.

The union, headed by Eli Ben-Khassous, says workers can no longer take responsibility for what happens to patients in ambulances untended by drivers on their way to hospital.

MDA workers are also demanding special pay, such as that received by workers in the Fire and Rescue Service, for evacuating patients from dangerous places.

The Health Ministry justifies the accompanying medic demand, but called on staffers not to apply sanctions. Health Minister Yehoshua Matza, who met with MDA director-general Amos Luria, said he would give the Treasury three days to respond to demands, since it must approve MDA allocations. Matza, leaving for Romania today, left the MDA situation in the hands of director-general Gabi Barabash.

The union reported to members after the meeting with Matza and received authorization to continue sanctions and even to hold a full strike, if necessary, on March 31.

MK asks PM about reports of ending English TV

MK Avi Yehzekel (Labor) has submitted a parliamentary question to the prime minister over reports that the Israel Broadcasting Authority intends taking the English TV news off the air. Yehzekel said 100,000 immigrants, diplomats, foreign journalists and tourists watch the broadcast.

"The prime minister, of all people, who raises his children with all the blessings of the Anglo-Saxon culture, must stop the broadcast from being taken off," Yehzekel said.

Liat Collins



Defusing tension

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai (left) meets yesterday with Palestinian Authority Planning Minister Nabil Shaath in Tel Aviv in a bid to reduce tension.

(Reuters)

Hanegbi won't retract remarks on Arafat

Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi yesterday refused to retract his harsh remarks about Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat or phrase them differently, despite being blasted for them by both Arab and opposition leaders, as well as ministers.

"I didn't make any threats," Hanegbi said. "The State of Israel does not need to remain silent while its negotiating partner gives a green light to terror attacks against it. This is a total violation of the agreement, and things

can't continue this way."

On Saturday night, Hanegbi had told Likud activists that "if Arafat exerts force against us, it will be the end of the peace process. Our reaction will reach Arafat himself. Arafat will not be able to continue living peacefully in a villa on the coast with [his wife] Suha. If it's war, then it's all the way."

"Arafat and his people," Hanegbi continued yesterday, "must understand that in our lexicon, it is impossible to lump the words 'peace'

and 'terror' together. If it's peace, then the only way to resolve disputes is through talking and mutual persuasion."

"Even if there is no mutual persuasion—and on the Jerusalem issue, mutual persuasion is apparently impossible—we must move forward on those issues over which there is no dispute. It is impossible to open the arsenal and begin to spill blood without thinking this will have no influence on the political process." (him)

ARAFAT

Continued from Page 1

"there will be no peace process."

He strongly criticized the opposition for the no-confidence motion, noting that just a few weeks ago Labor had threatened to file a no-confidence motion because the government had not started work on Har Homa.

Netanyahu said Har Homa would be a test of the peace process. "We're not looking for confrontations, but stand firm on our right to build there and we don't need anyone's permission."

He said if Israel gave in on Har Homa and Jerusalem, there would be no end to the demands and pressures. "Who knows where it would end—not even with the 1967 borders."

He stressed that the Palestinian Authority would be held responsible for "any attempts at creating 'spontaneous' violence... Anyone who intends realizing the threats against us should take into account that we won't be a partner to it. We won't operate under threats or waves of violence. We definitely intend making progress in this process according to our beliefs and what the agreement allows us to do."

Meanwhile, opposition members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee strongly criticized Netanyahu for canceling his appearance before it yesterday to give his regular monthly report. The report was meant to deal with, among other things, Har Homa construction and relations with the Palestinians.

The Prime Minister's Office put out a statement saying the premier's schedule was too tight to fit in the meeting, although he later came to the Knesset to meet with coalition MKs.

Meretz leader Yossi Sarid called Netanyahu's behavior "scan-

dalous. Netanyahu may be able to escape from the committee, but he can't run away from the personal responsibility for the Har Homa failure, which most of the public has strong reservations about... The Knesset should take precedence over the coalition," he said.

Hillel Kutler adds from Washington:

The State Department yesterday called the renewed Israeli-Palestinian dialogue, and King Hussein's Sunday visit, evidence of "a small step forward" in the peace process. At the same time, it reissued a call for the Palestinians to refrain from violence should

construction on Har Homa proceed, saying that with a direct negotiating channel, there is "no justification" for armed clashes.

State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said that in light of the weekend's events, including the PA's Gaza conference, the US has detected a "very small, perhaps even imperceptible to some people, change, which sometimes helps move a situation forward."

Burns also objected to Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi's weekend comments about Arafat facing exile from Gaza should violence occur.

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Road projects infuriate Hebron Jewish community

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH and news agencies

The Jewish community in Hebron was outraged to discover last night that the road leading to Tel Rumeida will be closed by the Palestinian Authority, leaving residents and school buses the sole option of using the H1 road (under Palestinian control).

According to spokesman Noam Arnon, civil authority district liaison commander Col. Baruch Magar informed the community of plans to "rehabilitate" the road. Arnon said that the community is considering striking and a cable had been sent to Education Minister Zevulun Hammer stating that the community could not be

responsible for the safety of the schoolchildren.

"When we asked where the buses would park, we were told that it hadn't been taken into consideration," he said.

This, said Arnon, is in addition to work being carried out on Shuhada Street near the Avraham Avinu quarter. Arnon said that Jewish residents were upset yesterday morning to discover a sign erected at Gross Square describing the road work as part of a joint American and Palestinian project "for the benefit of the Palestinians." "This is outrageous, what about the Israelis?" he said.

According to civil administration spokesman Lt. Peter Lerner, the sign was not prepared in coordina-

tion with Israeli authorities, although the entire project repairing roads in the area, including the work being carried out on Shuhada Street, is a joint project that involves Israelis, Palestinians, and the US.

Work on the road leading to Tel Rumeida, said Lerner, started yesterday. "There are plans to lay sewage pipes, electric and Bezeq cables, as well as building sidewalks and repaving the road surface," he said.

Regarding the Jewish community's fears about safety on H1, Lerner said that everything had been fully coordinated with the PA, but he stressed that Israel is responsible for the community's safety. But Palestinians were pleased

with the work. "This is a good step because we can have fresh water to drink and it will be a safer, cleaner place with better services for all of us - Jews and Arabs," said Mouzer Shaleed, whose appliance repair shop is on Shuhada Street.

Also yesterday, about 300 Palestinians demonstrated in Hebron to press for the release of relatives held in Israeli jails.

The demonstrators marched from City Hall to the Red Cross offices, carrying Palestinian flags and signs that read: "No peace until prisoners are released," and "Close prisons for good."

Israel has freed thousands of Palestinian security prisoners as part of the peace agreements, but some 3,000 remain in custody.



Solar phones

Public phones that operate by solar power like these are being installed by Bezeq in various parts of the country. The phones were designed by Hagai Schwadron. They are meant especially for mass public events in areas with little or no phone infrastructure. (Israel Sam)

Peace Now: Settler population up 9.4%

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Claiming the government is burying any hopes for peace and using the momentum of the current Har Homa crisis, Peace Now presented its latest report regarding changes in settlements under the present government, at a press conference yesterday.

The report cited statistics and figures to uphold claims that during 1996 thousands of housing units had been approved for construction and sale in Judea, Samaria and Gaza. In addition, the report stated that there had been an increase in the population in these areas of 9.4% (approximately 13,000 settlers). According to figures released by the Interior Ministry, the number of births in the areas for 1996 was 4,661.

Moshe Raz, Peace Now spokesman and author of the report, said the renewal of settlement activity under the present government "had been done very quietly, behind the scenes."

Peace Now leader Tali Reshef described the findings as "disturbing and proof that the current government is not interested in seeking peaceful solutions, or taking into account the needs of the Palestinians." He added that by continuing in the same way, any hopes for cooperation between Israel and the

Palestinians in the future would be dashed.

The movement charged that up until the end of 1996, 4,000 units in Kiryat Sefer, Emanuel, the Jordan Valley and Ma'aleh Adumim had been approved for construction and an additional 3,000 units that had been frozen under the previous government had been released for sale.

"This means an addition of approximately 15,000 settlers will move into these units," Raz said.

Both Reshef and Raz claimed that the approval of such a large number were the direct result of the government's decision to cancel a ministerial committee that presided over construction in the territories and transfer the powers to Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai.

Avi Benayahu, Mordechai's media coordinator, refused to relate to the figures mentioned in the report, but stressed that no new settlements had been established. Plans were approved, he said, according to the needs and natural development of the settlements, taking into account the governmental decisions and only after all legal aspects had been thoroughly examined. He dismissed the claim that there had been a population growth of 9.4%, saying the figures for the year were fairly similar to those that have been cited annually since 1993.

Dayan: IDF ready for Har Homa violence

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Uzi Dayan met with members of the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza on Sunday night to discuss the possible escalation of violence once work begins on Har Homa.

According to Yechiel Leiter, head of the council's foreign desk, the council's security committee meets with Dayan on a regular basis. He said Dayan assured the settlers the army is ready and emphasized there would be no repeat of the violence that erupted last September when the Western Wall Tunnel exit was opened.

Dayan stressed the need to beef up security in all settlements and that gate guards should examine those entering more thoroughly, said Leiter.

Jordanian opposition backs schoolgirls' killer

News agencies

Two radical Islamic groups yesterday praised last week's killing of seven Israeli schoolgirls by a Jordanian soldier and called on Muslims to wage a "holy war" to regain Jerusalem.

"The only path to regain the right [in Jerusalem] is the path of sacrifice, the path taken by the Jordanian soldier who emptied his machine gun into the breasts of the grandchildren of monkeys and pigs," they said.

Jordan's parliamentary opposition yesterday also came out in the soldier's favor, urging the government to stop "condemning and criminalizing" the soldier.

The Jihad Movement and Vanguard of Conquest, which both are believed to have small followings in Egypt, faxed the statement to The Associated Press. The Vanguard is presumed to be offshoots of the Jihad group that murdered Egyptian President Anwar Sadat in 1981, but little is known about the Jihad Movement. The fax indicated that the groups have decided to operate together.

"The Islamic and Arab reactions should match the love of

Jerusalem which resides in the hearts," they said in the statement.

It called on Muslims "to go strongly and steadfastly toward jihad for God." There was no way to independently verify the authenticity of the statement, but it followed the pattern of previous statements from the groups.

The Jordanian opposition members said in a statement that no Islamic rulings could sanction the killing of children, but that it occurred against the backdrop of the "extreme provocation" of Israel's decision to build Jewish housing at Har Homa.

"The opposition calls on the government ... to stop its condemnation and criminalization ... and attacks on the rights of this Jordanian," the statement said.

"They should give him a chance to defend himself."

King Hussein has expressed shame at what he described as a vile act, and Prime Minister Abdul-Karim al-Kabarti said the soldier would be "prosecuted to the full extent of the law."

"The statements from the government ... contravene the constitution and basis of law which



Jordanian police yesterday prevent political activists from making a solidarity visit to the family of Ahmed Daqamsa, the Jordanian soldier who murdered seven Beit Shemesh schoolgirls. (AP)

state that the accused is innocent until proven guilty," the statement said.

More than 100 policemen, including anti-riot police brandishing shields and clubs, blocked parliament members and other political activists from making a solidarity visit to the soldier's family yesterday.

Najib Rashdan, who led the 100-person group, said the group had sought the intervention of local government officials with the police, but got no response from them and had decided to turn back. There were no reports of violence or arrests.

The activists oppose the 1994 Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty and sought to underscore their stance by lending support to the suspect in the shooting, Ahmed Daqamsa.

Officials said Daqamsa, who has been detained for questioning, faces a military trial. His family said he was mentally unstable.

Latest snow saves Hermon ski season

By DAVID RUDGE

The recent weather has salvaged the ski season for the Mt. Hermon site and averted what would otherwise have been a financial catastrophe for the owners.

More than 150,000 people have visited the site since snow started falling on the country's highest mountain at the beginning of last month. More snow was expected to fall on peaks in the Golan Heights and on the Golan Heights last night, before dying out today.

"There's enough snow on the mountain now for at least another two weeks of good skiing," said Eli Sagron, manager of the ski site. "The situation is far better

than at the beginning of the season, when we really feared that there would be no snow at all - and therefore no income."

The recent weather has also helped improve the state of the country's depleted water resources, especially the level of Lake Kinneret and reservoirs on the Golan and Upper Galilee. Mekorot officials said most of the reservoirs in the North are nearly full, although the Kinneret is still 70 cm. below what it was at this time last year.

Nevertheless, the officials noted that the level of water in the lake had risen 1.23 meters since its lowest point at the beginning of the winter.

VACCINE

Continued from Page 1

high-risk age of 65.

The HU effort, which included Reuven Levy, Dr. Evgenia Greenbaum, Miriam Schlesinger, Prof. Dan Engelhard, and Prof. Abraham Morag, was not a simple adaptation of flu vaccine. It was a complex procedure, using three current strains of killed flu virus that can be absorbed through the mucous membranes (instead of going directly into the blood stream) and nevertheless be effective.

ARAD

Continued from Page 1

"The first was completed last summer when the swap took place. The second involves Arad and our prisoners."

"We have told the German minister that Ron Arad is not with us,

in conventional flu vaccine, virus antibodies are created and remain primarily in the blood; this only provides partial protection because the virus first enters the body via the respiratory system, where it begins to multiply.

Zakay-Rones said the preparation can be easily and quickly produced, even when a new strain of flu virus emerges around the world. It protected medical students suffering from colds and sinusitis, she added.

She will present results of the clinical trials at a conference in Washington next month, and findings will be published in a scientific journal after the patent application is approved.

but because he is the key to the freedom of our people we have been searching for clues [to his whereabouts].

He said that Hizbullah has not held back any information regarding Arad.

Lebanese observers said Nasrallah is probably aware of Arad's whereabouts, but unable to reach a deal with his captors.

Health funds, doctors launch vaccination campaign

By JUDY SIEGEL

The four health funds and the Israel Association of Family Physicians are launching a campaign to encourage the immunization of adults and teenagers against a variety of diseases, from tetanus-diphtheria to hepatitis A and B and pneumococcal pneumonia, depending on the person's age and condition.

Prof. Pesach Shvartzman, chairman of the physicians' association, said yesterday that the level of immunization among adults against pneumococcal pneumonia and tetanus, for example, is very low. Most people don't think of vaccines once they're out of the army.

Shvartzman urged the IDF to immunize all soldiers against hepatitis A (which is common in army camps, day care centers and kindergartens) and hepatitis B (which has been given to new-borns only since 1992).

These vaccines are not provided to babies by Tzfat Hasev family health centers, but now the health funds are willing to supply

them at reduced costs for their members, as they realize that preventing such diseases is cost effective.

An annual influenza shot is important for everyone in the high-risk category (those over 65 or who have a weakened immune system or a chronic illness), as is vaccination against the bacterial form of pneumonia. The tetanus-diphtheria vaccine is recommended for everyone once every 10 years.

The campaign will include printed material distributed by the health funds and billboards, but there is no money for TV and radio announcements, and the cash-starved Health Ministry has not offered any funds. In addition, the association has sent booklets with guidelines to all its 860 physician members to increase their awareness of the importance of vaccination.

The association also will try to persuade rabbis influential in the haredi community to promote awareness, as vaccination rates in this sector are among the lowest in Israel.

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NEWS

in brief

Woman, 70, killed crossing street

A 70-year-old Ramat Gan woman died yesterday shortly after being hit by a car while crossing a street in Givatayim. Her husband, who also was hit, is in serious condition at Tel Aviv's Ichilov Hospital. *Itim*

Police defuse car bomb in Ra'anana

Police sappers yesterday defused a bomb planted in a car in Ra'anana. The car's owner, a local investment consultant, found the bomb in the morning when he got into the car and called police. Police are investigating the incident, which they believe was criminally motivated. *Itim*

Matza set for Romania trip

Health Minister Yehoshua Matza is leaving for Romania today to look into solutions for the problems related to the adoption of babies from that country. During his two-day visit, he will be the guest of the Romanian health minister, who visited Israel a few months ago. The two also will discuss organ transplants, exchanges of medical delegations and therapeutic tourism. *Judy Siegel*

Vietnamese delegation visits Knesset

A delegation from the Vietnamese National Assembly, led by member Fe Du Bin, met with Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon in his office yesterday, in the first such tour by Vietnamese here. The delegation brought a warm message of greeting from the assembly's general secretary Do Mwui. The delegation head said he hopes the visit would help strengthen the ties between the two parliaments and extended an invitation for Tichon to visit Vietnam. *Liat Collins*

23-year-old composer signs with Casa Ricordi

At 23, Gil Shohat is the youngest composer and the first Israeli ever to sign a contract with the Italian music publishers Casa Ricordi. Six of his works will be published, including the Concertino for Violin and Orchestra, which had its successful premiere last year. Shohat, whose local teachers include 1997 Israel Prize winner Andre Hajdu, is currently working on his doctorate in piano and composition in Rome, where composer Luciano Berio is one of his teachers. Casa Ricordi, founded in 1808, numbers Verdi, Puccini, Milhaud, and Berio among its roster of clients. *Helen Kaye*

Cameroon runs up debt with Dan Hotel chain

By HAIM SHAPIRO

They were the kind of tenants every landlord dreams about, diplomats, but with \$118,000 on the debit side of the ledger — owed by the Cameroon Embassy for over a year — the Dan Hotel chain is not so sure.

According to Noah Grinwald, senior deputy general manager of the Dan Hotel chain, the Cameroon Embassy had occupied a suite at the Dan Panorama Hotel in Tel Aviv for a number of years. Then, in May 1994, the embassy stopped paying its bills. A year later, the embassy was still using the suite, and still paying no bills, Grinwald said, adding that even getting the room vacated had been a problem. "It wasn't so easy getting them out," he said, when asked why the hotel had allowed the embassy to remain in the suite and run up a bill of that magnitude.

Eventually the hotel went to Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court, which ordered the embassy to turn over

the suite to the hotel and to pay the bill. The embassy did move, it even sent letters to the hotel saying that it intended to pay the debt, but it hasn't paid yet.

Grinwald said that the hotel has appealed to the Foreign Ministry. It has even asked for the help of the Israeli ambassador in Cameroon. So far, no one has been able to help.

"We would go to the Execution Office," Grinwald said, referring to the government department which, in response to a court order, confiscates property from those who owe money on their debts, "but they have nothing worth taking."

Foreign Ministry spokesman Yigal Palmor said that in theory, an embassy can be sued for commercial debts, such as rental, although the ambassador holds full immunity and cannot be forced to appear in court.

It was impossible to obtain a response from the Cameroon Embassy. Its telephone line had been disconnected.

By ARIEN O'SULLIVAN and news agencies

The military parole board's decision to release Rami Dotan continued to draw fire yesterday.

Defense Ministry Director-General Ilan Biran has asked Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein and IDF Judge-Advocate General Brig.-Gen. Uri Shoham to petition the High Court of Justice against his early release. The move was approved by Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai.

In his letter to Rubinstein and Shoham, Biran wrote: "The defense establishment opposes the release of Dotan. In my judg-

ment, the parole board failed to sufficiently consider all the public ramifications and placed too much weight on personal-humanitarian factors.

"Therefore, insufficient attention was paid to the negative consequences that ensue when a criminal of such high rank does not pay the full price of his crimes."

"The board should have considered the message it would be sending to the public. It is forbidden that a criminal like Dotan, who caused considerable damage to the State of Israel, its military, and to the faith placed in its military commanders, should not pay the full price."

Mordechai also sharply criticized the decision to release Dotan, who was demoted from brigadier-general to private. In an interview with Army Radio, he said: "I think the decision was a mistake. We have the ability to provide any medical care needed within the military prison system. [The board had cited Dotan's high blood pressure and the two minor strokes he suffered in prison in its decision.]

"Dotan's crime was one of the most serious I know; it caused direct damage to the state. The State of Israel is still paying tens of millions of dollars as a result of this damage. The direct and indirect damage he

caused to our dealings with the American military is apparent to all of us, and certainly to me as defense minister."

President Ezer Weizman also released a statement blasting the decision. Through his legal adviser, he asked Rubinstein to examine the parole board's decision in detail.

Michael Parzen, of the Movement for Quality Government, said his organization has been asked by the Attorney-General's Office to join in the petition to the High Court. He said the movement has been following the case closely and had received much support in light of the public outcry against Dotan's impending release.

Wiesenthal Center calls for halt of SS pensions

BAL HARBOUR, Florida (AP) —

The German government should stop paying pensions to former SS officers, release a list of those getting payments, and determine whether it includes known war criminals, the founder of the Simon Wiesenthal Center says.

Rabbi Marvin Hier said Sunday that he notified the German foreign minister that recent revelations in a war crimes case in Rome have raised questions about German policy toward former war criminals. Hier said he hasn't received a response from the German government.

Hier said investigators determined that former SS Maj. Karl Hass, 84, has been receiving his German pension for years, despite his alleged involvement in the wartime slayings of 335 Italian civilians.

"They were killed in a cave outside Rome in retaliation for the killing of 33 German soldiers in a bombing by resistance fighters."

Hass was a witness in the trial of former SS Capt. Erich Priebke, 83, who was acquitted of the most serious charges against him but ordered held for a retrial when a higher Italian court found the judge was biased.

Now the German government is seeking extradition of both to face charges.

Hier said the Hass case underlines how little is known about German policy toward former SS officers and also the "complete bureaucratic bungling" of the Germans. He questioned how one branch of the German government could be looking for Nazi war criminals like Hass for years while another was mailing them pension checks.

He said he wants to find out whether Priebke and Joseph Schwamberger, both accused of war crimes, are also getting pensions.

Germany's last major Nazi war crimes trial ended in May 1992 with the conviction of Schwamberger, then 80, on charges of murdering more than 600 people as the commander of two concentration camps in eastern Poland.

More than 3,000 former SS officers now living in the United States are getting pensions, as are more than 2,000 in Canada, and another 1,100 in Great Britain, Hier said. He said many more than that are living elsewhere in the world.

A scandal that won't go away

By URIEL HEILMAN

The Rami Dotan affair came to light in 1989, when Ofir Pa'il, then a buyer in a Defense Ministry procurement delegation, alleged in a letter to his superiors that Dotan, then a brigadier-general and the IAF's chief procurement officer, was engaged in bribery and embezzlement.

At the time, the IAF was considering the purchase of \$300 million worth of F-16 engines from General Electric. Dotan was suspected of taking a bribe from GE.

During the initial investigation, in which no criminal activity was revealed, Dotan received the full support of the IAF. However, Maj.-Gen. (res.) David Ivry, then director-general of the Defense Ministry, suspected a cover-up and issued a call for a new investigation, which was subsequently taken up by the Military Police.

Even during this second investigation, powerful friends, such as then OC Air Force Avihu Bin-Nun, maintained that Dotan was innocent.

However, the evidence mounted against

him, and after his former attorney Harold Katz, who aided in embezzling the funds, agreed to become a state's witness, Dotan was forced to accept a plea bargain in which he confessed to embezzling \$12 million and ordering many of those under his command to abet him in his illegal activity. Many of the officers involved were dismissed from the military.

Dotan was sentenced to 13 years in prison and five years suspended, and was demoted to private. Thus far, Dotan has served half of his sentence and is slated for early release on April 21, due to poor health.



Special bar mitzva

A boy suffering from cerebral palsy reads from the Torah at his girl who all suffer from cerebral palsy and mild mental retardation national program, Bar/Bat Mitzva for the Special Child, organized by Green, director of the program, said that the children, none of The children wrote their own blessings, describing things for w

Illinois man accused of helping Nazis

CHICAGO (AP) — Bronislaw Hajda says the Nazis forced him to work as a cook in a German concentration camp during World War II. But prosecutors say Hajda was a guard who helped kill hundreds of Jews.

Hajda's trial, which began yesterday, marks

the fourth time since 1988 that the Justice Department has accused a Chicago-area resident of Nazi-related atrocities of more than 50 years ago.

A son of a shoemaker in Poland, Hajda says the Germans arrested him when he was 18,

imprisoned him for 3 1/2 years and forced him to work as a cook in a prison camp. But the Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations says Hajda, 73, helped massacre hundreds of Jewish prisoners at Treblinka.

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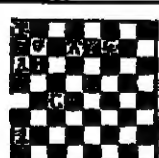
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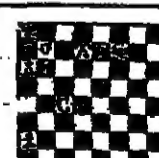
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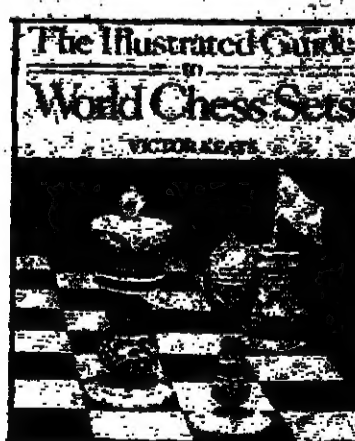
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הכרזת תאגיד

British general elections May 1

By ALAN WHEATLEY

LONDON (Reuters) - Prime Minister John Major yesterday ended months of uncertainty by confirming that Britain's elections will take place on May 1.

Polls give the ruling Conservative Party little chance of winning what would be a record fifth consecutive term in office, but Major was in a confident mood when he announced the date of the election on the steps of his Downing Street residence.

"I believe this election is winnable. Not only do I think it's winnable, I think I'm going to win this election... We have an 18-year record that I am proud of," Major said.

Major spoke to reporters after returning from Buckingham Palace, where he asked Queen Elizabeth for formal permission to dissolve parliament and hold the election.

"Elections, some people say, are tough and gruelling businesses, but I think they're also a lot of fun, and

I'm looking forward to going up and down the country taking the message that I believe is right for this country to everyone," Major said.

The Conservatives have transformed the face of Britain since they took power in 1979, privatizing vast swathes of industry and reducing the power of trade unions as they succeeded in halting decades of economic decline.

But their opponents argue that Britain has become a more unequal, harsher society as a result of Conservative policies and that after 18 years it is time for a change. They accuse the government of being weak, out of touch and lacking ideas.

Labour, which under Tony Blair has ditched its socialist baggage and anchored itself in the political mainstream, leads the Conservatives by about 25 percentage points according to recent opinion polls.

"We are on the verge of a new millennium... and there is so much that Britain could do," Blair said.

"There is so much talent, resources and energy among its people and I want a new government to come in with different values, different priorities and really lead that national renewal."

"That is at the heart of everything we want to achieve."

No party in power has ever clawed back such a big poll deficit so close to a general election. Labour needs a 4.3 percent swing to win power for the first time since 1979. This is larger than any swing Labour has achieved since 1945 and Blair vowed yesterday to be "the eternal warrior against complacency."

The announcement of the election fired the starting gun on what will be a 44-day campaign, the longest in 80 years.

Parliament will not be dissolved until early April when the campaign proper, with the publication of manifestos, daily news conferences and national tours by the leaders of the main parties, will start.

But, wasting no time, Major was planning his first meet-the-people visit later yesterday to Luton, a marginal constituency north of London.

Conservative strategists are sure that Labour, which has carefully tailored its message to appeal to the middle classes, will crack under the scrutiny of a long campaign.

But Blair is equally confident of

the appeal of his "new" Labour Party and said the contrast with the ruling party could not be clearer.

"It will be between a Conservative Party that is an utterly disorganized shambles, that has provided, very incompetently, a government, but has been weakly led, and a Labour Party that is genuinely New Labour," he said.

Countdown to polls

The following is a timetable of events in the run-up to election day.

MARCH 17 - Announcement of election day.

MARCH 20 - Last day in House of Commons between Major and opposition Labor leader Tony Blair.

MARCH 21 - Parliament begins Easter recess.

APRIL 4 - Major holds campaign rally in London, first of a planned series of seven.

APRIL 8 - Dissolution of parliament and proclamation of election.

APRIL 16 - Last day for nominations.

MAY 1 - Election day.

MAY 7 - New parliament assembles to elect Speaker and swear in new members.

MAY 14 - Opening of parliament with Queen's speech setting out new government's legislative program.

WORLD

in brief

46 killed in bus crash

BAKU, Azerbaijan (AP) - A passenger bus drove off a bridge on a mountain road in western Azerbaijan yesterday and plunged into a river, killing at least 46 people, including 12 children, a news report said. The ITAR-Tass news agency said the bus crashed into the Tovuz-Chai River after leaving the bridge and falling 15 meters near the mountain town of Tovuz.

Japanese suspects in Lebanon prefer suicide

BEIRUT (AP) - The five Japanese Red Army guerrillas jailed in Lebanon would commit suicide rather than be extradited to Japan, one member said. One of the suspects, Kozo Okamoto, 49, served 12 years in an Israeli jail for a 1972 attack at Lod Airport in which 24 people died.

'Der Spiegel' gives identity of Bonn CIA chief

BONN, Germany (AP) - A German news magazine, Der Spiegel, yesterday identified a man who it said is the CIA station chief in Bonn and of one of his supposed agents.

Yeltsin names young reformer to senior post

MOSCOW (AP) - Looking for fresh faces to revive his government, President Boris Yeltsin selected a young, reform-minded governor for a top cabinet spot yesterday and put him in charge of several key economic sectors.

Boris Nemtsov, 37, was named first deputy prime minister and will handle social welfare policy and the restructuring of government monopolies such as natural gas and electricity, Yeltsin said in an interview with several television networks.



Boris Nemtsov (Reuters)

With Russia suffering from a host of economic and social problems, Yeltsin ordered a sweeping government shakeup last week. But so far, he has named only two people to new posts - Nemtsov, and Anatoly Chubais, 41, who will also hold the title of first deputy prime minister.

Both are committed to free market reforms, and Yeltsin hopes the pair will provide the new government with clear direction on economic policy. The outgoing administration was plagued by infighting that stalled reforms and contributed to Russia's economic stagnation.

"The two first deputy prime ministers - Chubais and Nemtsov

Nemtsov, meanwhile, has won praise as a dynamic governor of the Nizhny Novgorod region near Moscow, turning the territory into a laboratory for economic reforms.

The area has been used for a variety of pilot projects with the World Bank and other international institutions on privatization and enterprise reforms.

Yeltsin told Nemtsov that "you have experience and authority, you're fresh, you're not from Moscow, not one from the worn-out deck."

Until yesterday, Yeltsin had insisted that the Cabinet would have only one first deputy prime minister - Chubais. But after a week of intense negotiations, it appeared there would be two first deputies to Chernomyrdin.

Yeltsin, who appears to be near full strength after months of illness, couldn't help but comment on Clinton's knee surgery, which pushed back the summit for a day.

"They were talking about the ill Yeltsin and the healthy Clinton at the summit, but it's turned out the other way round," he said. "The healthy Yeltsin and ill Clinton are coming."



Madelaine Germon, widow of Felix Germon, whose body was killed by neo-Nazis, arrives at the Marseille court house for the trial of four neo-Nazis accused of desecrating a Jewish cemetery. (Reuters)

French neo-Nazis on trial for desecration of Jewish graves

MARSEILLE (Reuters) - Two French neo-Nazis accused of desecrating a Jewish cemetery in the southern town of Carpentras in 1990 expressed remorse in court when their trial opened yesterday, saying they had abandoned fascist views.

Yannick Garnier, 27, Bertrand Nouveau, 28, and two other skinheads are accused of the antisemitic rampage, in which the body of a Jewish man was disinterred and 34 graves wrecked in a crime that shocked the nation.

"Morally, I never accepted the Carpentras desecration. I had committed an act that contradicted what I had always thought about life

and myself," said Garnier, who confessed last August to being part of a five-member group that carried out the attack.

"I have become hostile to all the ideas I had six years ago and which were close to those of the [extreme-right] National Front," he said in his two-hour testimony.

The attack in May 1990, in which the recently-buried body of Felix Germon was unearthed, and his sodomitization simulated with a beach umbrella, prompted hundreds of thousands of people to march through Paris led by late president Francois Mitterrand.

It also drew widespread condemnation of National Front leader Jean-Marie Le Pen,

who was accused of inciting such actions.

Garnier's confession led to the arrest of his three suspected accomplices. At the time of their arrests, investigators said all four were either members or sympathizers of the tiny Nationalist French and European Party (NFE), which became known in the late 1980s in connection with a series of attacks on Arab immigrants.

Garnier, Nouveau and the two others, Patrick Laonogro, 31, and Olivier Fimby, 28, face two years in prison if found guilty. A fifth member, whom the four others say instigated the desecration, has since died in a motorcycle accident.

Severed penis sent away on balloon

BANGKOK (Reuters) - A jealous Thai wife cut off her husband's penis, tied it to a helium-filled balloon, and let it fly away, police yesterday quoted the victim as saying.

A bleeding rickshaw rider, Prayoon Eklang, 47, in the northeastern town of Nakhon Ratchasima was rushed to the hospital early Sunday after he woke up to discover his angry wife's handiwork.

"I woke up and ran looking for it, but a neighbor said my wife had already tied it to a balloon and let it fly away," he told police from his hospital bed.

Peru hostage crisis reaches three-month mark

LIMA, Peru (AP) - Latin America's longest hostage crisis ended its third month yesterday, with 72 hostages still trapped inside the Japanese ambassador's home and no new talks scheduled to end the stand-off.

Leftist rebels stormed a cocktail party at the residence on December 17, seizing more than 500 hostages and demanding that Peru release hundreds of their jailed comrades.

The Tupac Amaru rebels quickly released most of the hostages, but still hold 72 men. The ambassadors from Japan and Bolivia are among the captives.

Relatives of the captives asked Lima residents to join them in a show of solidarity for the hostages yesterday. Supporters were asked to ring bells and sound sirens and horns at noon.

Talks to peacefully end the crisis for the most part have been stalled since March 7, when rebels broke off negotiations because the government allegedly was digging a tunnel under the residence in preparation for an armed assault.

The two sides met last Wednesday, but failed to reach an agreement on certain issues.

Mediators have held separate meetings with the government and rebels in an attempt to persuade both sides to return to the negotiating table. No date has been set for the resumption of talks.

The main stumbling block appears to be the rebels' call for the release of jailed insurgents, a demand the government rejects.

Other issues reportedly include better jail conditions for prisoners and whether the rebels would have to leave Peru or could remain in the country once the hostages are freed.

The government reportedly has suggested the rebels be exiled to Cuba or the Dominican Republic in exchange for the captives' freedom. Although the rebels have shown no signs of accepting exile, Japan apparently wants to keep that option open.

Zaire urges calm

KINSHASA (Reuters) - Zaire's government urged the capital not to panic yesterday in the face of relentless rebel advances, but travel agents reported a rush of flight bookings by Zaireans trying to flee the spreading civil war.

A statement, issued after an emergency cabinet meeting, said that the battle for Zaire's strategic third city of Kisangani had sparked the rumors, adding that the city had fallen to well-armed Ugandan troops.

One minister said that President Mobutu Sese Seko had telephoned twice during the cabinet meeting from his hospital bed in Europe, where he has spent most of his time since prostate cancer surgery in Switzerland in August.

"The situation created following the battle for Kisangani has given rise over the past 48 hours to all sorts of speculation, particularly in Kinshasa where fanciful rumors have circulated both about the president's state of health and the security of people and property in the capital," it said.

"The government invites the people not to panic as this is both unjustified and fed by pure rumor."

Travel agents, however, reported a post-weekend rush to book seats on flights out of the country. Planes to Europe and South Africa, where Zaireans need no visa, were the most popular.

In Kinshasa's central market, traders prepared to transfer their goods to safe houses, anticipating the mayhem that has regularly occurred after rebels have defeated the army.

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Oslo 3.5

King Hussein's visit here on Sunday, like his visit during the Hebron negotiations, seems to have broken the sense of escalating conflict and opened a new phase of negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians. The turning point was the call to Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat from Hussein and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu during their meeting in Jerusalem on Sunday evening.

Since that phone call, negotiations have begun in earnest which could lead to a summit among Hussein, Netanyahu, and Arafat in the next few days. In essence, the peace process has entered a phase very similar to the one just before the conclusion of the Hebron negotiations. Then, too, Israel was under great pressure to make concessions to "save the peace process," and the proposed solution was a package deal that addressed a number of outstanding issues. At the time, Israel found itself having to "pay" in diplomatic terms for the right to withdraw from most of Hebron.

The price was a deal in which Israel not only withdrew, but locked itself into Oslo's three further redeployments, including an August 1998 date for the last, critical withdrawal. In exchange, Israel was able to postpone Oslo's redeployment timetable by a year. Israel also gained American endorsements of the principle of reciprocity, and of Israel's position that the scope of the redeployments was Israel's to determine on a unilateral basis. In effect, this package deal was "Oslo 3" — the first negotiated agreement between a Likud government and the Palestinians.

The proposed building project on Jerusalem's Har Homa is not supposed to be part of Oslo at all, yet it too is being swept inexorably into the vortex of the package deal under the Oslo umbrella. In the end, Israel will build on Har Homa, because the price of not building has become too high. The government has become so involved in the project that it cannot afford to back down, not only with respect to coalition politics, but because of the precedent it would set for permanent status talks.

But in exchange for building on Har Homa, the Palestinians will succeed in extracting concessions on other unresolved items — such as the airport in Dahaniya, a port in Gaza, and a "safe passage" across Israel between Palestinian areas.

Like the last crisis, the trick to resolving this one will be to widen the negotiations beyond the immediate sticking point to include what both parties care about most at the given moment — a bit like bargaining in the marketplace by throwing in additional items. As the stakes go up, the value of each item is blurred and the ability of both sides to claim victory increases.

All this is well and good, but there is a small

problem. What Israel supposedly achieved in the last round seems to be in the process of being lost in this one. Israel doggedly claimed from the beginning that it had the right to unilaterally determine the size of each of Oslo's three withdrawals, leaving the fourth and last withdrawal for permanent status negotiations. One of Netanyahu's seminal achievements was to secure American endorsement of this position. If, however, the Palestinians succeed in extracting diplomatic compensation for Israel's agreement to withdraw from 9 percent of the territory — an area the US termed "credible" and the Palestinians called "insignificant" — then they will have effectively demonstrated that Israel cannot determine future withdrawals unilaterally.

Another of Netanyahu's proud achievements in the Hebron accord was the US endorsement of the principle of reciprocity. But if the Palestinians succeed in extracting a list of concessions in exchange for building on Har Homa, which is not even on the list of outstanding issues to be reciprocally resolved as part of the Hebron agreement, then what is left of the reciprocity principle? Even if Netanyahu succeeds in emerging with a deal that includes building on Har Homa and maintains the current scope of the first withdrawal, Arafat will have succeeded in destroying the principle of unilateralism on two crucial issues: Jerusalem and redeployments.

Whatever the nature of the next package in Oslo — 3.5 in the language of modern software? — the principle will have been established that there are no more "free" unilateral steps; whenever Israel chooses to act unilaterally, including Jerusalem, it will pay a price.

The defeat of unilateralism will be a singular Palestinian achievement; much more important than agreements on other issues, which in any case would have been negotiated out eventually. It will be a Pyrrhic victory for Arafat, however, if he makes no concessions regarding outstanding issues on Israel's list such as confiscation of weapons, extradition of suspected terrorists, etc. If Arafat does not come Israel's way on some of the issues, the Right's contention that the peace process is a one-way street will be validated.

Much has been said about the lack of Palestinian trust of Israel in general and of Netanyahu in particular. The minimization of unilateralism on Israel's part, whether forced or voluntary, will go far in removing one of the greatest sources of tension in the peace process. But inopportune unilateralism is not the only threat to the peace process; a process that is driven by Palestinian threats of violence and is perceived by most Israelis as a one-way street is also a recipe for stalemate and collapse.



Tip of the iceberg

The view from the hilltop is bleak. Relations between Israel and the Palestinian Authority stand on the brink of the unknown, because Israel plans to bulldoze Har Homa for housing, and the PA says the action will end the peace process.

Both sides have climbed a hill neither seems interested in climbing down — but for Yasser Arafat there is little motivation to do so. The peace process is in his hands. David Bar-Ilan, policy adviser to the prime minister, warns that no government can give in to threats of violence. Yet the threat lies in the situation the government has created.

Nobody was about to grab the area from Israel. Har Homa is a hill which has not seen human habitation since Joshua entered the Promised Land. It could have been developed 20 years ago, and it could be developed two years from now. It just can't be developed quietly over the next 27 months, until the end of permanent status talks. That is the entire issue.

Furthermore, the buildings that start rising over the next year, during the talks, will be completed too late to influence Israel's hold on southeast Jerusalem.

Without visible gain, the government is tempting violence, because the Palestinians can see as well as anyone else that Israel will not escape all responsibility for it. The entire world except the US and the South Sea paradises of Micronesia and the Marshall Islands voted against Israel in the UN General Assembly last week because of Har Homa.

It is not true that anywhere Israel builds the Palestinians will cry "Provocation!" There are many places in Jerusalem where 2,500 housing units can be built in the next two years. Israel is currently building 2,000 more homes in Ma'aleh Adumim, well inside the Palestinian-contested West

JON IMMANUEL

Bank, and no one is marching.

The problem is that Har Homa — new, highly visible, spanning the issues of Jerusalem and settlements — "is the tip of the iceberg. If we didn't see it above the water we could ignore it, but because we see it, we cannot ignore what is beneath the surface as well," says Oslo negotiator Ahmed Qurei.

The choice is to stop Har Homa.

Har Homa brings every other submerged dispute to the surface of Palestinian political consciousness

or bring every other submerged dispute to the surface of Palestinian political consciousness.

OSLO permits Israel to take a unilateral decision to build on Har Homa only if each article is not read as part of a whole that emphasizes coordination, liaison and cooperation "to provide for a smooth implementation...."

It will do the government no good to blame Arafat if violence erupts. He can always hide the smoking gun. "Arafat is in control, but not in total control," senior security sources said last week.

But if there is no violence, Arafat will reap praise for keeping the peace.

In a climate where 40 percent of those asked in a Bethlehem-based poll last week said they supported suicide attacks against Israelis, those ardent to blow themselves up or shoot-and-run for God and country will feel less self-

restraint. Psychiatrists point out that nothing appeals more to the lonely "lunatic than mass murder for a cause greater than his own mental problem. The Israeli-Palestinian problem is the cause.

In a state of open animosity his act will win him praise from many, understanding from many more, and guarantee him a tiny place in history, if not in the next world.

What the psychiatrists fail to explain, however, is why an ostensibly sane government would go out of its way to create an open season for lunatics.

Short-term peace in the coalition or the need to show a different coloration from the previous government cannot explain it. Netanyahu will bring neither peace nor security, and terror attacks, seemingly provoked by the government, will make his government look worse than Labor's.

But suppose the months of building on Har Homa pass with nothing more serious than weekly protest marches. Suppose, in addition, that the Palestinians sit down at the negotiating table. Will we then have called Arafat's bluff?

Not at all. Arafat will be seen as a man who has finally earned a Nobel peace prize in his own right, and not just as Israel's supporting actor. Indeed, he will be the savior of the peace process. Netanyahu will be pushing, but Arafat will be leading him where he wants to go.

The transformation in Arafat's persona will be more remarkable than the one wrought by the Oslo accords, which saved him from the brink of oblivion. He will actually look like a head of state, and in the end that's what he will be.

The writer is a member of The Jerusalem Post editorial staff.

Damage control

GWYNNE DYER

When the question of expanding NATO into Eastern Europe first came up, US Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott warned that it was "provocative and badly timed, with what is going on in Russia." Nevertheless, President Clinton will be in Helsinki this week trying to persuade Boris Yeltsin that NATO expansion is a good idea. It will be an uphill struggle.

The turn-about in US policy happened mainly as a result of insistent pleading by the Eastern Europeans themselves. Having spent decades under the Soviet yoke, they wanted security guarantees for the future, even though today's democratic and militarily enfeebled Russia poses no threat to them.

Eastern European governments eager for economic development would probably drop their demand for military guarantees if they could join the European Union, but over seven years after the fall of the Berlin Wall the EU has yet to open membership talks with a single ex-Warsaw Pact country.

So NATO was the only Western club Eastern Europeans could join — and since there are far more American voters descended from Polish, Czech and Hungarian immigrants than from Russians, those three countries are going to get their way.

Clinton's meeting with Yeltsin in Helsinki, therefore, is not really about whether Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary (plus maybe Slovenia and Romania) should be invited to join the Western alliance at the next NATO summit meeting in Madrid in July. That has already been decided. This is just a damage-control session, where the West is trying to find ways of allaying Russian outrage.

That will be tricky, because the Russians are very outraged. Public and elite opinion in Russia is close to unanimous in opposing NATO expansion, and not just because of the ancestral Russian fear of "encirclement." The Russians feel betrayed — and they have a point.

The West is breaking a formal promise to Moscow, made at the time of German reunification in 1990, that if Soviet forces were withdrawn from Eastern Europe, NATO would not move in to replace them. Unfortunately, Moscow didn't get it in writing.

The other reason Russians feel betrayed is because adding 60 million Poles, Czechs and Hungarians to NATO will shift the military balance in Europe sharply to Moscow's disadvantage.

Back in the days of the Cold War, Western strategists used to argue that the Warsaw Pact's three-to-one superiority over NATO in tanks proved Moscow's aggressive intentions. Incorporating Polish, Czech and Hungarian forces will give NATO a total of 17,664 tanks, more than three times what Russia has in Europe.

No sane person believes NATO actually plans to attack Russia, but it is not enough to say "just trust us." By NATO's own logic, Moscow should now fear NATO's aggressive intentions.

So what will Clinton actually offer Yeltsin in Helsinki? None of the three things the Russians want most: a written guarantee that NATO will not deploy nuclear weapons on the territory of new members; ditto that no foreign NATO troops or permanent bases will be deployed there; and a right of veto over the future membership of Ukraine and the Baltic republics.

A more fruitful approach would be to offer the early revision of the Conventional Forces Europe treaty, which leaves Russia's forces in Europe greatly inferior to NATO's. The CFE was negotiated in the days when all the tanks in Eastern Europe belonged to the Warsaw Pact and counted towards Russia's total, and it is grossly unfair in the post-Cold War circumstances.

Russia cannot afford to build more weapons now, so the CFE's renegotiation would have to aim at cutting NATO forces down — and especially on rimming the forces of the new Eastern European members. As a Western diplomat remarked recently, "NATO enlargement is so important for these applicant countries that they are ready to sacrifice on the arithmetic."

Would this be enough to placate the Russians? Maybe. If it were combined with a high-profile new NATO-Russia joint security arrangement to save their hurt feelings. But mere verbal agreements will not be enough. After their experience in 1990, the Russians want it in writing.

The writer is a London-based independent journalist and historian.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

RAW MEAT

Sir, — D'vora Ben Shaul's Heads 'N' Tails column "Feeding pets raw meat" (March 9) was so egregiously in error as to endanger the health of animals and people.

Eating raw meat is likely to cause ill health in pets, namely vomiting and diarrheal diseases caused by food-borne bacteria like *Campylobacter jejuni*, *salmonella* and *e. coli*.

Uncooked meat can also transmit tapeworms in both dogs and cats which can also infect humans. Fish can also carry parasites, both worms and bacteria, which can cause disease in dogs. These parasites and diseases vary in prevalence around the world, but the risk is everywhere.

Fish and milk are the most common dietary intolerances in cats,

and eggs and dairy products among the most common causes of food allergy in dogs. Most dogs have a problem with potatoes. Most pet cats won't eat foods that aren't animal-based.

Giving a dog sweets will not cause worms, but often contributes to obesity. All soft foods will hasten the accumulation of plaque and eventually lead to periodontal disease, bad breath, severe dental disease and systemic illness.

The best source of advice on the appropriate diet for any individual cat or dog is the pet's veterinarian.

DR. MOLLIE LAWEE, DVM

Jerusalem.

D'vora Ben Shaul replies:

Veterinarians, like members of

all other professions, often disagree. But there is one thing on which most of them do agree and that is that anyone who is not a veterinarian knows nothing about animals.

The feeding advice given in my column was approved not only by the veterinarian who cares for my animals but by any number of practitioners that I have worked with in the past at zoos and at animal shelters.

As for "most pet cats will not eat food that is not animal-based," I suggest that these may be some very special cats because in my experience if a kitten happens to have a chance to encounter different foods, then they just may eat them. Incidentally, wild cats, in nature, also often eat melons and cucumbers.

RABBI MORDECHAI LIEBLING, Executive Director

Federation of Reconstructionist

Congregations and Chevrot

RABBI SIMEON J. MASLIN, President

Central Conference of

American Rabbis

RABBI LENNER R. THAL, Vice President

Union of American Hebrew

Congregations

New York.

DIMINISHED VISIT

Sir, — There is no doubt that King Hussein's visit to the bereaved families was an unprecedented humanitarian gesture by a leader who only some years ago was an enemy and was responsible for the destruction of our most famous cemetery and of our holy sites in the Old City.

However, the humanitarian side of the visit was diminished by the expectation that the king must not leave Israel without some sort of

diplomatic triumph — further appeasement of Arafat. It would seem that we have reached a new low in our surrender to terror; after the murder of innocent Jews, especially little children, the murderer's leader expresses condolences, visits the families and then receives a gift for being so thoughtful.

As for The Jerusalem Post's comparison in its editorial "Studies in contrasts," (March 17) to the massacre at Ras Bourka by

an Egyptian border policeman and in Hebron by Baruch Goldstein, let us not forget that both the incidents in Jordan and Egypt were committed by individuals in uniform, supposedly there to provide security and safety. No tourist visiting a country with whom we are officially at peace would expect a soldier or policeman of that country to wantonly open fire on him.

AVRAHAM FRIEDMAN Hashmonaim.

Two cheers for the Vatican

DANIEL LESHEM

the Vatican has decided to condemn Israel for Har Homa.

THIS kind of double standard typifies many European states' foreign policy toward Israel.

What right has Britain, for example, to slam Netanyahu's government over the Har Homa project — which was at least partly intended to placate right-wing opposition to the 9 percent further deployment — when John Major's conservative government is taking such a hard line in its policy toward Northern Ireland?

It has decided to reward Libya for its 'improved' human rights record, and to condemn Israel for Har Homa

Major's government, dependent as it is on the support of the Unionist MPs, cannot afford to make any concessions to Sinn Féin such as accepting Senator Mitchell's compromise proposal on the handing over of weapons.

Had the British shown more flexibility, they might have allowed the multilateral peace talks in Northern Ireland to advance, perhaps enabling the IRA to reinstate the cease-fire. Before criticizing Israel over its attitude to the process with Palestinians, the British ambassador to the UN might ask himself what percentage of territory in Northern Ireland has been turned over to the IRA "freedom fighters."

Britain — which has, moreover,

never agreed to hand over to Spain the tiny, strategically important territory of Gibraltar, and which went to war with Argentina over a faraway group of islands called the Falklands — has no moral right to preach to Israel, or criticize its efforts to safeguard the future of its capital.

Nor does the French government have any right to lecture Israel over Har Homa or any other issue pertaining to the peace process.

Would France have conceded anything to Corsican "freedom fighters" demanding independence? Would France and Spain have made any concessions to Basque separatists? France hasn't even shown willingness to make concessions regarding the protection of its francophone interests in Africa, far away from home.

Israel has already made many concessions to the Palestinian Authority — which can seemingly never be satisfied. It classically resorts to threatening violence, instead of deciding once and for all to resolve any dispute with Israel around the negotiating table and nowhere else.

The Europeans and other UN members need to understand that it is Israel's right to protect its vital interests in and around its capital city, and that it has no intention of returning to the June 4, 1967 borders, which compromised its security, allowed Jews no access either to the Western Wall or the Jewish Quarter, and made of the Hebrew University and Hadassah hospital buildings on Mount Scopus a virtually deserted enclave in the eastern part of the city.

And the Vatican? If it wishes to be taken seriously as a moral influence, it should consider carefully where it extends its recognition.

The writer is a defense analyst.

הכזאמן האשכול

Channel 8 unveils new schedule

By ELANA CHIPMAN

Channel 8 is not designed for those who watch television primarily to seek pure entertainment. Director-general Udi Meron, who on Sunday announced a new line-up for the station, says it attracts viewers who would like to experience television in an enlightening and enriching way, not those addicts who have the box on all evening.

Channel 8 (under the management of Noga Communications, which also operates the Children's Channel and Second Showing) has come out with a new cohesive and structured programming schedule.

Meron says that Channel 8's most loyal viewers are men (57% of men watch the channel as opposed to 26% of women) over the age of 46 (41% as opposed to 21% of those over 25), and not necessarily educated or intellectual. With the new programming, it aims to extend the range of viewers while maintaining or improving the quality of the shows.

Channel 8 also intends to take a leading role in promoting local culture, by funding and producing original Israeli documentary material—some 35 hours of documentaries, 20 hours of specials and 60 hours from its new studios, per year. Half of the total \$4 million budget is marked for original productions which will comprise some 15% of the channel's total broadcast material.

The ambitious goal is to create a television environment which is also a cultural home for viewers. From the end of the month, the daily 7 to 8:30 evening slot will be dedicated to quality family-oriented programs: nature, adventure, travel and anthropology from the Discovery network and

other quality producers.

But the real change is in the 8:30 to 10:30 slot. Every week-night it will have its own theme with a local top-notch presenter who will give the films a more relevant local context. Sunday evenings will feature biographies of figures such as Che Guevara, Martin Luther King, JFK, Humphrey Bogart, Henry Miller, and Israelis such as writer Yoram Kaniuk.

On Mondays Billie Moskona-Lerman will introduce and frame investigative reports on contemporary society such as television and its effect on our lives, drugs, sexual identity and the cyber-world, together with personal stories.

On Tuesdays, Yael Dan will bring quality programs to expand our knowledge on science, nature, medicine, computers and space. Wednesday nights, hosted by Doron Nesher, are dedicated to the spiritual aspects of our lives. He will discuss and present films on philosophy, mysticism, religion, psychology and more. And Thursdays will be led by writer and satirist Yair Garboz and dedicated to all aspects of culture.

Classical-music lovers should not panic: Friday evening is still theirs from 6 to 9, with operas, ballets and concerts. Saturday night is designated "special night" where an ambitious central theme will be examined from alternative points of view with specific local relevance.

Their first evening will look at man's connection to earth, and the next at social justice.

And once a month, a special investigative program hosted by political analysts Amnon Avramovitch and Amir Oren will discuss political and defense issues.



Doron Nesher brings spiritual issues to Channel 8's new format.

Aliens and Aussies to star in Purim fun

By HELEN KAYE

Purim means dressing up, and with movies like *Independence Day* and the daffy *Mars Attacks!* around, what's more fun than aliens and UFOs? The Eretz Yisrael Museum in Ramat Aviv is hosting a professional make-up competition centered around these extraterrestrials and the public is invited. The kids can also participate in crafts workshops and make their own masks, noisemakers and other Purim paraphernalia.

Hopping right along, kids arriving dressed up as kangaroos, koala bears or other Australian creatures, get in free at Ganguru, Kibbutz Nir David's Australian zoo in the Beit She'an valley. Most of the national parks will have activities, as will other kibbutzim that cater for visitors. All children dressed up as animals get into the children's zoo at

Tzova or the Parrot Park at Na'an for free. Down in the south, Kibbutz Ein Gedi has evenings of Hebrew song and a night dip in the spa.

If your children haven't yet seen Hanoach Roseme's star-studded adaptation of Kipling's *The Jungle Book*, there'll be four performances daily on Saturday and Sunday at the Noga Theater in Jaffa.

Dance can be fun stuff too as the Kibbutz Dance Company's *Peter and the Wolf* and *Carnival of the Animals* have proved. The same is true for *Multicolored Dance* by Liat Dror and Nir Ben Gal.

The saucy Batsheva Ensemble offers a *Dance Party* where only gravity holds anybody down and there's also a dance version of *The Jungle Book* called *Jungle Rhythm* from the Hayarden Dance company. These are for the whole family at Suzanne Dellal's Purim Dance on Saturday and

Sunday during the day. In the evenings Batsheva Ensemble, Dror and Ben Gal as well as Yael Inbar and Avital Arieli offer, respectively, *Kyr, Sit, Stand My Love*, and *Gertrude's Bones*.

Cleanliness, it's said, is next to Godliness and since hygiene is the Tel Aviv school system's central topic this year it makes sense that the municipality is offering a "big" prize (it doesn't say what) for the child with the best costume on the subject of cleanliness.

It's all part of Dizengoff Laughs, a big Purim party on the Tel Aviv street that will be closed to traffic between the fountain on Dizengoff Square and Ben Gurion Blvd. on Sunday. There'll be eight stages, entertainers galore including Michal Yonai, Boaz Pessia, Dana International, circus acts, body make-up, street theater and folk dance, and it's all free.

REVIEWS

in brief

Theater

Most Cruel the King (*Achzar Mikol Hamelech*, at the Habimah) is the first and possibly the most masterly of all the works by Israel Prize winner Nissim Aloni, who has been long regarded as Israel's national playwright. Written in 1953, his *King* figures in the history of Hebrew theater not only as a distinguished dramatic achievement but also as a unique piece of linguistic virtuosity. The classic example of biblical idiom wrought in language as richly contemporary as it is historically electrifying, it is a landmark in Hebrew theater.

Aloni's version of the Rehoboam-Jeroboam division of the kingdom (*I Kings*) has another significance today. It mirrors the power struggle in which the venomous bickerings and fiendish struggle of their modern counterparts are currently bogged down.

But this production, maybe out of misplaced homage to its author, tries to turn it into a glitzy musical. If, as Ori Vidislavski's inspired choral music suggests at the outset, an opera was originally intended, Roni Toren's lavish design effects (among them a mammoth golden Lion of Judah, a ceiling-high aviary with real live parakeets) would be appropriate.

However, the play itself is faithfully mounted but the acting is uneven. While Igal Naor with his debauched oriental despot Rehoboam draws a tragic and multi-faceted figure, Doron Tavory's Jeroboam, though impressive, is at times downplayed to the point of paralysis. Sara von Schwarz, with a striking presence, is but a pale performer. And worse, Orna Porat, a virulent virago of a Zenah, all but kills some of the most touching scenes with fits of frenzy. Following on Ilim's brilliant projection of the Holy Book in Rina Yerushalmi's Vayomer Veyelech, the "biblical" choreography and choral declamations here are disappointing too.

Even so, piling on a glut of gilded theatrical effects is not the answer. A play of such rich theatricality and chilling political significance needs no upstaging from direction or design. Masking it in so much redundant glitz only serves to display the director's lack of faith in the text and his excessive pride in his own powers.

Naomi Doudai

Musical

Rodgers and Hammerstein's "Oklahoma!" in Beersheba had a bright, cheery revival by the Light Opera Group of the Negev. Young soloists (Gabriella Lewis, Stephen Howden) with attractive voices and movements supplemented LOGON veterans (Ed Spitz, Harvey Narrol, Marcus Meyerowitz, and Dov Landezbaum).

The large cast (directed by Meir Vardi) was nicely disposed in picturesque poses. Choreographer Rosa Howden found original ways to match the "Americans" Western sets and costumes by Yarden Alkan and Estela Teitelbaum. And the orchestra (plus synthesizer) and chorus directed by David Waldman were well rehearsed. But the fully amplified sound, though aiding audibility, affected communicability. Often only the voice came to us, not the eyes.

Stephen Howden (Debbie Hill)

Max Stern

Concerts

The Tokyo String Quartet's velvety sound is a distinctive quality of this group. It captivates right from the first notes of Beethoven's Quartet op. 18/2. The music flows in a tempo that is just right—fast but not hurried, in the quieter movements, and slow but not dragging in the second one. Emotive accents instill liveliness into the classically balanced form. Above all, its members know the secret of a general pause for letting dramatic tension rise in silence.

Brahms' Quartet op. 51/1 was vibrantly impassioned, alive with warm emotional expression yet firmly controlled.

The evening's climax was Schubert's "Death and the Maiden" Quartet. It was here that the playing became the most relaxed and also the most intense. The strings' singing of a melodic phrase was made to sound like a Lied. It was a rare musical delight.

Placing this extraordinary group in the oversized ICC hall was a deplorable waste. How much more satisfying it might have sounded in a chamber-music sized hall.

Ury Eppstein

Philadelphia story

By MICHAEL AIZENSTADT

When the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra invited the young immigrant musician Jonathan Gandelman to play Mozart's First Violin Concerto and the Schubert Rondo for Violin and Orchestra, he was somewhat hesitant. "I didn't know this Mozart concerto and Schubert is very difficult to play." But now, he says, the Mozart "is really a wonderful concerto and it's very nice to prepare and perform something not many violinists play on a regular basis." And as for the Schubert, "it's difficult because it is not written in a violinistic way. It does not feel comfortable and it's far from virtuosic in nature. It looks so simple but in fact it is far from it. But I enjoy it very much."



Jonathan Gandelman enjoys grappling with Schubert's more difficult works.

always listens to me and gives me a lot of advice. But ultimately it is my decision how I play, not his."

A few months ago, Gandelman won third prize (\$10,000) in the Kreisler Competition in Vienna, where he was joined by his supportive parents. "Playing at the prestigious Musikverein hall in Vienna was great, I could not have hoped for anything more," he says. A planned recital in Jerusalem last week was canceled because he had tendonitis in his hands. "I moved from one apartment to another in Philadelphia and I probably hurt my hands during the move."

But now his hands are better and he's looking forward to playing Mozart's First Violin Concerto and the Rondo for Violin and Orchestra by Schubert with the Jerusalem Philharmonic Orchestra who was also his principal teacher. "Now it's less like I'm his student, but he

IN TUNE

Van's new Game

By DAVID BRINN

Aside from Neil Young, there probably isn't one major artist from the 1960s who is still consistently making relevant music like Van Morrison. And with *The Healing Game*, he returns full circle to the blissful soul-inflected heights of his early 1970s peak that included *Moon-dance*, *Tupelo Honey* and a half-dozen other classics.

He's never sounded better, with his guttural growl seductively caressing a strong batch of songs that touch on his career-long obsession with spiritual quest, but

"Piper at the Gates of Dawn," a contemplative Irish acoustic number, and the one all-out rocker "Burning Ground" proves that he hasn't lost one step since "Wavelength."



Van Morrison

"It Once Was My Life" suffers from campy horns and a cloying backing vocals. But it's the only tune that slips into the showbiz trappings of some of Morrison's later work.

If we can all age this gracefully, then we have nothing to worry about.

NOT AS successful in their transition to the '90s are the Bee Gees. While never aspiring to the lofty goals of Morrison, the brothers Gibbs have always been master pop craftsmen.

From the irresistible hooks of their '60s hits, to their equally irresistible era-defining disco tracks, the Gibbs have always shown a flair for melody and craft. On *Still Waters*, those instincts get watered down into a slick puddle of vapid pop.

Using high-profile hitmakers like David Foster and Hugh Padgham, and an array of programmed synthesizers and studio professionals, the group loses all its character.

Those Chipmunk vocals are still there, but there's no place for them to go.

THE HEALING GAME

Van Morrison

(Heli-con)

STILL WATERS

Bee Gees

(Heli-con)

also leave room for sexy playfulness.

Always a master of horn charts, Morrison uses them here to spectacular effect, and along with a hot band, well-placed harmonies, and some wonderful sax solos, he effortlessly conjures up his glory days.

Morrison changes pace on

Amazing Grace: The high priestess of pop

By CHARLES SOLOMON

Pop star, fashion model and movie actress Grace Jones is returning to Israel to participate in an evening of "contemporary pop culture," organized by international art collectors Paul and Christine Steinitz, who manage the Scottish House gallery in Jaffa. All proceeds will go to Peace Now.

The Steinitzs, who are central figures in the New York art world, will use works from their own private collection as a backdrop to the evening's entertainment. Among the participants will be three DJs, from London, Paris and New York, and the highlight of the event will be a performance by Jones—who is a personal friend of the Steinitzs.

Grace Jones first performed in Israel in 1982 when she opened the Colosseum nightclub in Tel Aviv. For those lucky enough to see her on that occasion, it was an electrifying and unforgettable experience.

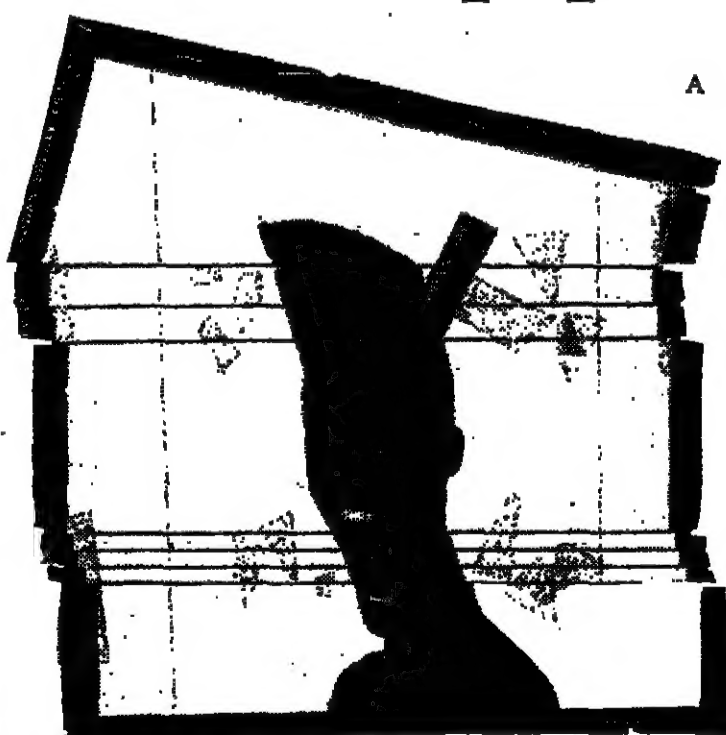
Jones is more of a theatrical concept artist than a singer in the strict sense of the word.

Mesmerizing hypnotic, half-spoken, half-sung vocals (a precursor of rap perhaps?) with stunning visuals and a bizarre and unique stage act, Jones became the high priestess of the international club scene as well as a recording star in the '80s.

She was born in Jamaica. Her father, a preacher, emigrated to the US when she was still an infant, leaving her to grow up in the rural Jamaican countryside. At the age of 12 she joined her father, who was then preaching in Syracuse, New York.

She joined the roster of one of New York's premier modeling agencies, then took off to Paris to join her twin brother Chris with friend and fellow model Jerry Hall, and before long they became two of the most sought-after models in Paris.

But Jones became disillusioned with modeling and moved back to New York, where she became the first artist to perform live at Studio 54, then New York's



Grace Jones: A modern Marlene Dietrich

hottest nightclub.

She switched record labels to Island, which teamed her up with hot Jamaican reggae musicians and producers, Sly Dunbar and Robbie Shakespeare.

Her 1981 breakthrough album, *Nightclubbing*, was sensual and hypnotic. Her vocal delivery sounded like a modern-day Marlene Dietrich, the lyrics suitably risqué. Most of all, it was her unisex appearance and her bizarre theatrical stage act that caught people's attention.

Her collaboration with Sly and Robbie (dubbed the best rhythm section in the business) produced three of her best and most successful albums (*Warm Leatherette*, *Nightclubbing* and *Living My Life*).

She eventually left Island Records and her fellow Jamaican producers and signed a deal with Capitol Records. In 1985 she worked with producer Trevor Horn (the mastermind behind Frankie Goes To Hollywood) on a concept album *Slave To The Rhythm* with mixed results.

year later she collaborated with Nile Rogers (a member of Chic and producer of David Bowie's *Let's Dance* album) and released the patchy *Inside Story*. She has since worked with some of the world's best music producers, but she has never quite managed to recapture the magic of the Sly and Robbie era.

With the ever shifting trends of the music world, Jones's star has waned in recent years and it remains to be seen whether she can return to the magic of her classic albums from the early '80s.

But her stage show is truly riveting, and if it's only half as good as her first appearance in Tel Aviv in 1982, then this new performance should not be missed.

Grace Jones's performance will take place at Tel Aviv Port, Hangar 11, on Saturday at 12:15 a.m., and not at Moshav Gan Haim as previously announced. Tickets are available from Hadran: (03) 527-9797.

TOWER RECORDS' TOP 15

THIS LAST WEEKS ON	WEEK	WEEKS CHARTS	ARTIST	TITLE
#1	2	5	YEHUDA POLIKER	LIVE
#2	3	17	U2	POP
#3	1	2	VIA	SPIRIT OF THE WORLD
#4	17	2	PINK FLOYD	DARK SIDE OF THE MOON
#5	9	2	OST	TRANSPOTTING
#6	25	5	NONA	NONA
#7	4	13	RONIT SHAHAR	SHALOM LATMITUT
#8	6	5	OST	BREAKING THE WAVES
#9	RE	1	JOE COCKER	BEST OF...
#10	RE	1	THE BEATLES	ABBEY ROAD
#11	5	52	SHILOMO ARTZI	TWO
#12	14	18	SPICE GIRLS	SPICE
#13	18	12	VIA	BEST OF '96
#14	RE	1	LEAH SHABAT	TZEL HALEV TAKIN
#15	21	2	QUEEN	GREATEST HITS 2

Tower Records' top-selling albums for last week

BUSINESS

in brief

Panel to examine moving Sde Dov to island

The government has approved the establishment of a committee to investigate moving Sde Dov Airport from Tel Aviv to an artificial island a kilometer offshore.

The proposal, from Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy, forms part of National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon's wider strategy to construct a series of islands opposite Israel's major coastal cities. The committee will comprise representatives of several ministries, together with delegates from the Airports Authority and Tel Aviv Municipality. *David Harris*

New Industry and Trade Ministry head named

Dov Mishor will replace Yehoshua Gleitman as the Industry and Trade Ministry's director general. The appointment will take effect on April 1. Among his previous postings, Mishor has been on the board of directors at Bank Mizrahi, economic adviser to the Finance Ministry and also held a number of positions within the Bank of Israel. *David Harris*

'German commitment to cut deficit very clear'

German Finance Minister Theo Waigel is "very clear" that Germany will cut its budget deficit to 2.9 percent of gross domestic product this year, Irish Finance Minister Ruairi Quinn said yesterday. Quinn was speaking following talks between EU finance ministers at which Germany and France presented economic convergence programs. Waigel "was very clear that Germany would meet, among other things, the Maastricht criteria, specifically the question of the deficit of 2.9%," Quinn said, adding that the French and German programs were "well accepted" by European Union finance ministers. *Reuters*

COMPANY RESULTS

Net profits up 3% at Delek

Delek The Israel Fuel Corporation Ltd. reported a 3% increase in annual net profits to NIS 105.6m. from NIS 102.2m. in 1995. Revenues for the year increased to NIS 3.82b. from NIS 3.69b. The company attributed the 3.5% increase in sales to growth in fuel sales for consumer vehicles. *Jennifer Friedlin*

Dmatek cuts losses to \$1.85 million

Dmatek Ltd. of Herzliya announced a decrease in annual net losses from \$3.46m. in 1995 to \$1.85m. last year. Revenues jumped 610% to \$5.6m. from \$785,000. *Jennifer Friedlin*

Panel okays rise in minimum wage

By Jerusalem Post Staff

The Knesset's Labor and Social Affairs Committee yesterday decided to pass to the second and third readings a proposal to raise the minimum wage from 45 percent to 47.5% of the average monthly salary. This would come into effect April 1.

The figure will be annually adjusted (rather than the current biennial update), inflation indexed and linked to the salary increment. In March 1997 values, the minimum wage would rise from NIS 2,098 to NIS 2,349, a 12% increase. The number of hours worked for this wage will be lowered from the current 200 a month to 191 in April, to be decreased to 186 from July 1.

Together, these two measures mean the minimum wage will rise to above 50% of the average salary, according to committee chairman Maxim Levy (Gesher). Hadash MK Tamar Gozansky said she was satisfied with the outcome, even though it fell short of the original demands.

"This has shown that in principle we will change the minimum wage," she said. "But it is true to say that the NIS 2,349 from April is still very low compared to an acceptable wage."

The problem is enforcing the law, said Gozansky, who believes there is a lack of supervision of workplaces.

"A year ago we passed a law which means that employers can be imprisoned for related offenses," Gozansky said. "So far no one has been sent to prison. When I see the first employer sent to jail for six months, I will know that the Labor and Social Affairs Ministry is taking the law seriously."

The Manufacturers Association expressed disappointment at the decision. The association said that in addition to the risk of more workplaces closing, hastening the already upward trend in unemployment, the move could lead to a further slowdown in the economy.

The organization also said the changes should have been implemented in a more graduated fashion.

Growth slows to 2% in second half of last year

Annual growth down to 4%-5% from 6%-7% in '95

By Jerusalem Post Staff

The growth of Israel's gross domestic product slowed sharply in the second half of last year to two percent from the corresponding period in 1995, according to data released yesterday by the Central Bureau of Statistics.

In what adds up to a general slow-down trend, the CBS noted in its final macro-economic data for 1996 that for the entire year growth has slowed to a range of 4%-5% after consistently hovering

around 6%-7% since the beginning of the decade (except 1993, when GDP expanded by 3%-4%).

On a per-capita basis, GDP grew last year by 2%, half the pace registered during the previous year. However, the bureau noted that even that figure was still higher than the 1.5% average recorded among the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's members, which include the world's most developed economies.

Meanwhile, local public spending - through the government, municipalities, and an assortment of non-profit organizations which get their funding through various ministries - grew by 4%, twice the pace of the previous year, and totaled 50% of GDP.

Exports of goods and services rose 5% last year, a sharp decline from the annual increases in the previous three years, which ranged from 11% to 15%.

Imports, excluding direct defense-related shipments, expanded

at the same time by 7% after rising by 9% the previous year.

The trade deficit, excluding defense-related imports, rose to \$11 billion last year from \$9.9b. in 1995, \$7.9b. in 1994, and \$5b.-6b. during 1991-'93.

The public's available income rose 3% in real terms last year, after expanding 5% in 1995. Annual per capita private-consumption expenditures rose 3% in real terms, one percentage point less than it had in 1995, the CBS reported.

Int'l Paper seeks sale of Scitex share

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK - International Paper, a minority shareholder in Scitex, would entertain an offer for its stake in the embattled printing technology company, saying the "synergy" between the two concerns no longer exists.

"We are not soliciting anyone to make an offer, [but] we are not closing the door," Jim Melican, executive vice president of International Paper, said last week.

Last month, Scitex chairman Dov Tadmor dismissed reports that International Paper was interested in unloading its stake. There was commotion over Scitex last year when David Gilo, the high-tech entrepreneur and CEO of DSP Communications, made a bid for the Herzliya-based company.

"No one has indicated to us that they have an interest in purchasing Scitex shares," Melican said. Instead, he said, he was making a public statement to quash rumors that International Paper either was talking with Gilo or was refusing to entertain offers to sell its stake.

Scitex's stock hit \$21.75 in April when Gilo made his bid. It has dropped substantially since then, to \$9.62 on Friday.

"Obviously the price has gone down," he said of Scitex's stock. But the issue was less about the stock price than the strategic ties between the two companies. Since International Paper invested in Scitex some five years ago, the industry has changed. "When we made the investment, Scitex was a graphic arts business."

They sold hardware and we sold consumables, Melican said. "There was a synergy there. Melican, a member of Scitex's board, said Scitex's management has gone in the right direction by moving into digital printing.

But what was good business strategy for Scitex was not apt for one of its key investors. International Paper owns 13.3 percent of Scitex, and is a member of a partnership that holds 39% of the company.

"The reason we became an investor has diminished," Melican told *The Jerusalem Post* in New York. We "made an investment in Scitex, because we saw similarities in business," he said, adding that "the synergies that were there a few years ago are not there anymore."

Scitex reported \$178.3 million in net losses last year, compared with \$34.5m. in 1995, citing "severe difficulties" in its graphic arts business.

While Scitex's graphic arts division was losing money, its digital video and digital printing divisions showed improvements over last year.

Melican said the graphic arts industry is shrinking and will probably face consolidation. That could pit Scitex against stronger companies with deeper pockets, including Agfa, Kodak and duPont.

"Scitex has been through difficult times before and will emerge this time as a revitalized company and a profitable company," Melican said.

"Our concern is that unlike the two previous stances in which it was reborn, at this point it is working within a market condition that it can't affect."



Unemployment problems in Shanghai

A young Shanghai woman tries to convince a representative of a joint-venture firm to employ her as their public relations manager at an annual open job market in one of the city's main parks. Unemployment in Shanghai is growing, due to layoffs and restructuring of state-owned firms. *(Reuters)*

Meridor: Treasury not against more budget cuts

By DAVID HARRIS

Finance Minister Dan Meridor went on record yesterday to deny media reports that Treasury officials are increasingly arguing against an additional budget cut this year.

Meridor said he will only decide whether to implement a cut after he has seen the internal revenue data for the first quarter.

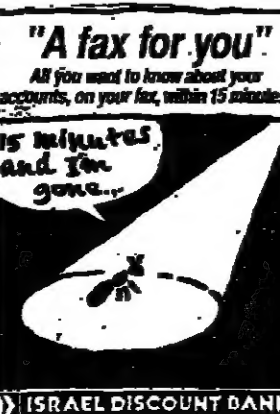
"We will only examine this, as I have said all along, in April," Meridor told *The Jerusalem Post*. "You must not believe everything you read in the newspapers. I honestly haven't decided anything yet."

A statement from the Treasury published yesterday went one step further, saying that discussions on the issue have not begun and will only do so early in April.

Senior Treasury officials admitted they were shocked to discover that the January budget deficit totaled NIS 1.41 billion.

However, the initial alarm, which included stern warnings from the Bank of Israel, was offset in part by February's statistics, which showed a NIS 561 million deficit.

The government-set target is for the deficit to be no higher than NIS 9.744b., or 2.8 percent of the gross domestic product, by the year's end. Meridor, together with outgoing Treasury director general David Brodet and recently resigned budget director Ran Kroli, has said a cut could be as high as NIS 2b. This would be in addition to the NIS 7.2b. cut approved by the Knesset as part of the 1997 budget.



Shorer: Take action against cartel convicts

By GALIT LIPIK BECK

Supervisor of Insurance Doron Shorer yesterday called on insurance companies to take action against senior executives who were convicted last week of price-fixing and other illegal activities.

Shorer, in a letter sent to the companies, has instructed their board of directors to hold a special meeting to discuss the ruling and its implications on the continued employment of those who have not resigned. This means that the jobs of Cial Insurance general manager Rimon Ben-Shaul, Migdal Group general manager Uzi Levi and his deputy, and deputy Menora general manager Aharon Kalman will be reconsidered.

In reaction, representatives of the insurance company heads said they are convinced the board will reject Shorer's proposal and allow the managers to remain at their jobs.

Shorer has the authority to suspend managers for a maximum of

three months, but only under special circumstances, which are irrelevant in this case, said Ben-Shaul.

At the end of last week, Jerusalem District Court Judge Yonathan Adiel convicted six insurance firms, 11 of their managers and the Association of Insurance Companies of creating an illegal cartel in 1991 and 1992.

The six firms convicted, as part of a plea bargain arrangement, are Migdal, Cial Insurance, Hamagim, Sahar, Zion and Menora.

The judge condemned them in very strong terms, which casts doubt on the public's confidence in the insurance firms and the sector, said Shorer, who received legal advice based on the Insurance Business Law before sending the letter.

"To maintain the standard, trust and purity of the insurance sector in general and of individual insurers it is necessary for you to discuss and take actions on this issue in order to guarantee the public's continued confidence in you," Shorer wrote.

Adiel condemned the insurance firms for using their collective power to damage competition in the sector, worsen insurance conditions and improve their economic situation at the expense of customers.

The illegal activities in restraint of trade not only harmed the individual customer but were damaging to the entire public, the judge said.

The managers and companies were convicted of conspiring to fix premiums and other price components, such as special discounts and agents' fees. They also acted as a cartel in eliminating coverage of certain insurance items, raising insurers' co-payments and dividing up the market among them.

The companies committed these illegal acts in homeowners insurance, corporate insurance, and insurance for mechanical equipment.

The Phoenix and Ayalon insurance firms decided not to join the plea bargain. Charge sheets will be filed against these firms soon.

Gov't, C&W deny reported breakthrough

By DAVID HARRIS

There are no new developments in the relationship between the government and Britain's telecom company Cable and Wireless, despite media reports to the contrary, company spokesman Peter Eustus and Communications Ministry spokeswoman Ayala Bar said in separate interviews yesterday.

The two were referring to reports which said the government and C&W had reached agreement on the establishment of a joint company which would hold the controlling share in Bezeq.

Communications Minister Limor Livnat did not meet C&W managing director Richard Brown during her visit to Britain last week, but she did hold talks with other company executives, the most senior of whom was Regional Business director Richard Wainright-Lee.

The firm is currently in advanced talks with both the ministry and Government Companies Authority, with an announcement of the privatization of Bezeq expected soon.

One of the options that has been

under discussion for at least three months is for the government and C&W to create a controlling partnership in Bezeq through a jointly owned 20 percent stake in the firm.

C&W, which already holds a 10.02% share in Bezeq, has made clear its desire to extend its interests in the company in particular, and in Israel in general.

Bezeq is scheduled to be one of the first state companies to be sold this year, according to Moshe Leon, the Prime Minister's Office deputy director-general with responsibility for privatization.

The cabinet last month decided to cap any private holding - whether local or foreign - in the national phone carrier at 25% and to require government approval for any attempted purchase of more than a 5% stake in the company.

Livnat, who was the guest of the British Department of Trade and Industry, was given an overview of the UK's telecommunications industry during her stay. The emphasis, according to Bar, was on the benefits of opening the sector to competition and privatization.

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (11.9.96)

Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.750	5.000	5.375
Pound sterling (£100,000)	5.875	6.000	6.375
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.825	1.825	2.000
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.625	0.750	1.000
Yen (10 million yen)			

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (17.3.97)

CURRENCY BASKET	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES	
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	3.6174	3.6758	3.627	3.6825
German mark	3.3331	3.3989	3.327	3.3825
Pound sterling	1.6740	2.0088	1.94	2.04
French franc	5.3072	5.3928	5.21	5.47
Japanese yen (100)	0.5854	0.5949	0.57	0.61
Dutch florin	2.7413	2.765	2.75	2.7244
Swiss franc	1.7229	1.722	1.72	1.7174
Swedish krona	2.3323	2.3323	2.32	2.3174
Norwegian krona	0.4319	0.4389	0.42	0.43
Danish krone	0.4888	0.4947	0.47	0.4821
Finnish mark	0.5168	0.5252	0.50	0.51
Canadian dollar	0.6902	0.6709	0.64	0.65
Australian dollar	2.4416	2.4813	2.40	2.422
S. African rand	3.8280	3.8894	3.89	3.922
Belgian franc (10)	0.7615	0.7637	0.68	0.77
Austrian schilling (10)	0.9570	0.9725	0.94	0.95
Italian lira (1000)	2.8072	2.8225	2.75	2.80
Jordanian dinar	1.9728	2.0045	1.98	2.04
European pound	4.9400	4.9600	4.74	4.95
ECU	0.9500	1.0300	0.95	1.03
Irish punt	3.8280	3.8894	3.89	3.922
Spanish peseta (100)	5.1847	5.2584	5.09	5.25
	2.3254	2.3630	2.28	2.40

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel
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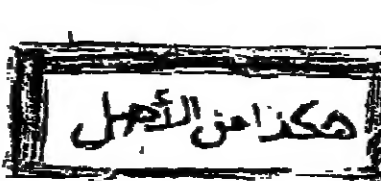
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SPORTS

in brief

Sri Lanka sink to 2-0 loss vs New Zealand

HAMILTON, New Zealand (Reuters) - Precisely a year after their dazzling victory in cricket's World Cup, Sri Lanka yesterday sank to a 2-0 Test series loss to New Zealand, ranked bottom of the table of Test-playing nations.

Set 326 to win the second Test, and already in trouble at 20 for two over, Sri Lanka fell 120 runs short when they were bowled out for 205 with more than a day to spare.

In Port of Spain, Trinidad, West Indies, 140 runs behind India on first innings, were 34 for one in their second innings at tea on the fourth day of the second test at the Queen's Park Oval yesterday. Scores: West Indies 296 and 34-1, India 436.

Welsh look to Wembley as temporary home

CARDIFF (AP) - London's Wembley Stadium could be the temporary home for Welsh international rugby union while Cardiff Arms Park is being rebuilt.

Wales must find a home ground while work progresses on a new Millennium Stadium scheduled for completion by May, 1999.

Reconstruction began on Cardiff Arms Park after Wales' Five Nations defeat to England on Saturday.

The Welsh Rugby Union favors Wembley, the home of English soccer, as a temporary home. Twickenham, home of English rugby, is also an option.

Gascoigne gets suspended sentence in Italy

ROME (Reuters) - An Italian judge gave England midfielder Paul Gascoigne a three-month suspended jail sentence on Monday for punching a photographer in Rome while he was playing for Lazio in 1994.

Gascoigne, who now plays for Scottish league leaders Rangers, was not in court to hear the sentence. Costs and damages have yet to be decided.

A prosecution lawyer for photographer Lino Nanni had sought a six-month sentence for the player, who lashed out after pictures were taken of him with a blonde woman.

Gascoigne's defence had argued that he had acted legitimately to defend his privacy and had been exasperated by the photographer's actions on June 24, 1994.

The photographer, who needed hospital treatment after being punched in the face by the player in the incident in central Rome, said he was merely doing his job.

Big clubs hoping for success in State Cup

By DEREK FATTAL

Twelve clubs will be battling for a place in the quarter finals of the State Cup this afternoon. The country's premier knockout competition has taken on added significance this year.

Even Betar Jerusalem's total domination of the league, the competition is the only prospect of glory for the rest of the pack.

In addition, with Israeli clubs earning just one UEFA Cup berth this year, the allure of a European place in European competition through the Cup Winners' Cup has assumed even more importance than in past seasons.

For current holders Maccabi Tel Aviv a successful defense of the trophy is vital to prevent the current campaign turning into a nightmare.

The Tel Avivians are in action away to Zefirum Holon, and given their current hot form, it would be a major upset if the Holonians manage to stop Avraham Granit's side from progressing to the next round.

The Betar's lacked their usual killer instinct in the 8th round, when they edged past Hapoel Yehud with a 2-0 victory. Nevertheless, having netted eight goals in their last two games Jerusalemites - who would

dearly like to match Maccabi Tel Aviv's double-winning exploits - look set to dole out more punishment in their tie against Maccabi Herzliya.

The game between Hapoel Beit She'an and Hapoel Jerusalem will create a sense of déjà-vu for the two sides that drew 1-1 in league play on Saturday. This time, Beit She'an will act as hosts. Bnei Yehuda's meeting with Hapoel Haifa provides a repeat of the recent Toto Cup final from which the Hapoel Quarter side emerged victorious.

An early exit from the competition might actually suit relegation strugglers Hapoel Tel Aviv who take on Hapoel Petah Tikva. With National League survival so crucial for the club's future, Dror Kashan cannot afford the luxury of an extended Cup run.

Maccabi Petah Tikva looks to have a tough match in store against the ever-improving Hapoel Beersheba.

The most intriguing fixture of the round will be played tomorrow when Second Division leaders Hapoel Ashdod travel north to take on Maccabi Haifa, while the final match in the last-16 stage, pitting Hapoel Tiberias against Hapoel Kfar Sava is scheduled for March 29.

'Becker leaves Germany for US'

MUNICH (Reuters) - The German media reported that Boris Becker was leaving Germany for good yesterday, flying to the US to move into a luxury home there.

A spokesman at Frankfurt airport confirmed Becker was on his way to Miami and that his wife Barbara, 31, and son Noah, 3, had already left on Saturday on one-way tickets to Florida.

The triple Wimbledon champion said last year he wanted to move to the US in about three years' time. But after tax investigators raided his Munich house in December in his

absence, an angry Becker warned he could leave sooner.

The mass-circulation daily Bild, one of several media to carry the story, headed its front-page report "Boris's bitter farewell."

Becker said last year he wanted to move to the US when his son Noah started school, so that the boy would avoid the pressures in Germany of having a famous father and of not being white.

Becker said he and his wife, who is black, believed their son would be able to lead a more normal life in a multi-racial society.

M. Waugh ton inspires Aussie win

PORT ELIZABETH (Reuters) - Australia, inspired by a superb 116 from Mark Waugh, pulled off a two-wicket win in the second Test against South Africa after at least a tense climax on the fourth day yesterday.

The victory gave Australia a 2-0 winning lead in the three-Test series and completed a remarkable transformation after South Africa had at one stage led by 188 overall with all their second innings wickets standing.

Needing 270 to win, Australia resumed on 145 for three and seemed to be coasting to success at 258 for five until three wickets suddenly tumbled in successive overs.

Occasional seamer Jacques Kallis bowled Waugh in the 91st over after he had batted for five and a half hours and 228 balls, hitting 17 fours and a six.

Hansie Cronje had Michael Bevan (24) caught at slip in the 92nd over and Kallis trapped Shane Warne (3) lbw in the 93rd.

Having needed just 12 more runs to win with five wickets in hand, Australia suddenly needed five runs with only two wickets left.

But they were not to be denied and the game ended in style as Ian Healy flicked the third delivery of the 94th over from Cronje for six over deep backward square leg, carrying Australia to 271 for eight.

Waugh, essentially a fluent strokemaker, showed in his 11th Test century that his determination, patience and resolve can be as crushing as that of his older twin Steve.

Having reached 50 on Sunday from 87 deliveries with eight boundaries and a six, Waugh resumed on 54 and his path to



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three figures reflected the increasing tension of the match situation and vagaries of bounce in the pitch.

His second 50 took 112 deliveries and contained seven boundaries, his only escape coming on 105 when Daryll Cullinan dropped a slip catch off fast bowler Allan Donald.

Mark and Steve Waugh weathered a potentially lethal first spell from Donald in the morning and took their fourth wicket

stand to 54 without undue alarm.

But Steve Waugh (18) then drove a wide, swinging half volley from Kallis into the covers where skipper Cronje dived at full stretch to his left to take a fine catch.

Fifteen minutes before lunch Adams finally claimed a deserved wicket when he yorked Blewett for seven to make the touring side 192 for five.

But Waugh continued with a perfect mixture of attack and defence to ensure Australia a series win over the only country they have not beaten in a rubber in the last five years.

Having been bowled out for 108 in their first innings to concede a deficit of 101, Australia not only made the highest total of the match in the fourth innings but comfortably the highest fourth innings total to win at St. George's Park.

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Australia, 1st Innings 108

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NEWS

in brief

Palestinian hits IDF jeep, 4 soldiers injured

A Palestinian driving a taxi ran a stop sign at the Netzarim junction in the Gaza Strip yesterday and slammed into an IDF jeep, injuring four soldiers. The army launched an investigation to determine whether it was an innocent traffic accident or an attack. Two of the soldiers were moderately injured and two suffered light injuries, the army said. The taxi driver was lightly injured. The accident occurred at the site of grave clashes during last September's riots, in which two soldiers were killed at the junction.

Arieh O'Sullivan

Border policemen stoned near Hebron

Palestinians threw stones at a group of soldiers and border policemen patrolling Beit Omar near Hebron. One border policeman was lightly injured and taken to a hospital.

Itim

Hanegbi to be questioned again today

Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi will be questioned for the third time this morning by the police team investigating the Bar-On Affair. Police are expected to question Hanegbi over a tape-recorded meeting with MKs about Roni Bar-On's appointment as attorney-general. Police believe that the probe will be completed this week.

Raine Marcus

Court bars 2 from aliya until December 1998

The High Court of Justice yesterday ruled that two American Jews denied entry to Israel cannot come here before December 1998. Shelly Benvenisti, a Miami journalist, and Hillel Blaustein, an accountant from Philadelphia, were on a list of seven people denied entry to Israel after the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin murder on the grounds that they had criminal records or constituted a security threat.

The two petitioned the court, presenting testimony from the FBI that they did not have criminal records and stated that they had not been involved in illegal political activities. After hearing evidence in camera from security sources, the court ruled that the ban, which went into effect in December 1995, would remain effective for three years.

Batsheva Tsor

IMA, ministries reach agreement on hospitals

Overcrowded conditions in hospital internal-medicine departments will be eased due to last night's agreement by the Finance and Health Ministries and the Israel Medical Association to add 360 doctors' job slots and 90 duty doctors according to a timetable to be decided on in the coming days. The government agreed to the building of facilities for 1,200 additional beds in the public hospitals, in addition to room for 650 beds currently under construction. The agreement was approved by the Treasury's deputy budget chief Haim Peltz after it was facilitated by Health Minister Yehoshua Maza and his director-general, Prof. Gabi Barabash. The IMA had threatened to hold a 24-hour warning strike unless such an agreement was signed.

Judy Siegel

Reset clocks on Thursday

Daylight saving time begins at midnight between Thursday and Friday and lasts until midnight on September 13, the Interior Ministry announced yesterday. Interior Minister Eli Suissa has submitted a bill to schedule DST for several years at a time, so that the Knesset does not have to discuss it every year. Suissa also has announced that a committee is being formed to examine the issue of scheduling DST.

Itim

Rabbinate advocates 'conversion law'

The Chief Rabbinate Council yesterday called on the Knesset to pass a conversion law which would deny recognition to conversions carried out by Conservative and Reform rabbis, both in Israel and abroad. The current draft law would restrict recognized conversions performed in Israel to those approved by the Chief Rabbinate. However, the council called upon the Knesset to grant recognition only to those conversions which were "carried out according to Halacha." It also proposed the establishment of special offices to deal with immigrants whose status as Jews is in question.

Haim Shapiro

Netanya grandmother, 51, has baby boy

A 51-year-old Netanya grandmother of two has given birth to a healthy baby boy in a normal delivery without having had any fertility treatments. The woman, a kindergarten teacher, suddenly discovered she was pregnant in the third month, astounding doctors. The couple have a 31-year-old son and two younger daughters, and two grandchildren aged four and one. She was put under supervision at the high-risk pregnancy unit at Meir Hospital in Kfar Sava and baby Ro'i Netanel was born a few days ago. Unaided conception by a 51-year-old woman is very rare.

Judy Siegel



State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat presents a copy of her report on party funding in last year's elections to Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon yesterday.

(Isaac Harari)

6 parties fined for funding violations

By BATSHEVA TSOR
and news agencies

State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat yesterday fined six parties for funding irregularities during the last Knesset election. Ben-Porat imposed fines of NIS 2,187,625 on the Likud, NIS 2,365,000 on the Labor Party, NIS 1,138,020 on the National Religious Party, NIS 344,600 on the Third Way, NIS 336,500 on Shas, and NIS 135,000 on Meretz. Efraim Gur's Ahdut Party, which did not get into the Knesset, was fined for not presenting its books. The other parties presented balanced books.

According to the new law governing party funding, permissible individual contributions to parties were reduced from NIS 24,000 to NIS 1,200, while government funding was increased by 30 percent. The law stipulates that the parties must present their books to the comptroller.

Speaking at a Knesset ceremony after presenting her report to Speaker Dan Tichon, Ben-Porat noted that, since this was the first time that the law was in force, she had decided to take a lenient approach. She also called for new legislation regarding

parties which do not succeed in getting into the Knesset.

Ben-Porat pointed to another serious defect in the new legislation. It does not provide for additional funding for lists headed by a person who is also running for prime minister under the new law for the direct election of the premier. "It is fitting that the legislature consider this point," she said.

The last election had produced a new phenomenon, Ben-Porat said. "There was a widespread phenomenon of propaganda carried out by various bodies and extra-party organizations in the form of advertisements in the media, posters in the streets, and stickers. The expenditure for this propaganda, which amounts to millions of shekels, is not reflected in the parties' expenses."

She said the worst offenders were the two large parties. "People who realized they could not, under the new law, make contributions to the parties, did so instead via advertising in the media," she said. She said that any form of free service to a party from a professional is also an offense.

Ben-Porat said that the parties had disclaimed the advertisers and had charged that stopping such ads would be tantamount to inhibiting free speech, but she does not agree.

The Third Way, she said, was fined for receiving too large a contribution while it was being set up, and for receiving money from people who do not have the right to vote.

Ben-Porat said that "an examination of the books [of the Likud and Labor] revealed that the factions had not reflected the money spent on the many advertisements in the press and posters in the streets in their expenditures."

The Likud attributed its violations to the new direct election law and called for amending the Party Funding Law to reflect these changes.

The NRP was fined for overspending its budget by more than NIS 3 million.

In a separate report on current expenditures, Ben-Porat noted that the NRP is continuing to overspend.

NRP secretary-general Zevulun Orlev attributed the overspending to the fact that the allowable expenditures were calculated on the basis of the six MKs the party had in the last Knesset and not the nine it has in the current one. He also noted that he would convene the party secretariat to draw the necessary conclusions from the comptroller's report.

Meretz, on the other hand, was fined for "a small number" of advertisements in the press. Meretz later said it is considering petitioning the High Court of Justice, since the reference was to two ads placed by the anti-religious coercion group Hemdat without the party's knowledge.

Shas was fined for turning an El Hama'ayan rally into a party rally and for receiving a contribution from a non-recognized body.

UTJ plans bills on graves and conversions

By LIAT COLLINS

Members of the United Torah Judaism faction in the Knesset met with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday to continue the discussion on implementing the clauses of the coalition agreement on religious issues.

Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi was also present.

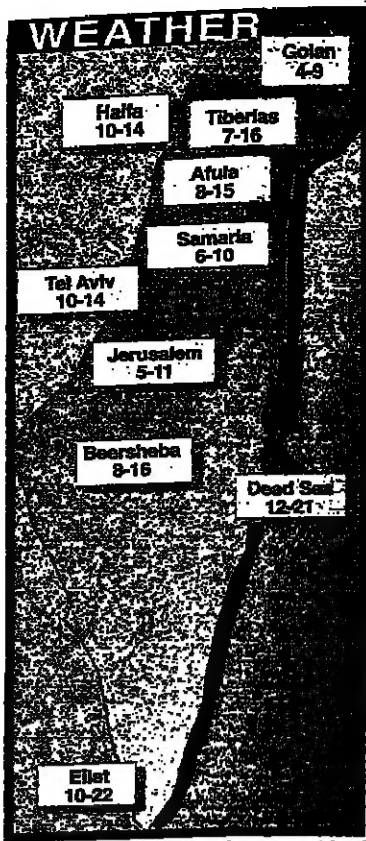
According to a UTJ spokesman, it was decided to present a bill on conversion to the cabinet at its next meeting with the intention of bringing it to a vote in the Knesset plenum before the Pessah recess at the beginning of next month.

It was also decided to present the cabinet with a proposal to establish a ministerial committee to deal with problems of ancient graves turned up by archaeological excavations.

The UTJ faction members raised the matter of threats by Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo and city councilors against businessman Lev Leviev for saying he would keep the Ramat Aviv shopping mall closed on Shabbat.

The MKs called the threats "serious" and an attempt to desecrate Shabbat as well as violate civil law. They said this is the first time in the state's history that threats have been made to persuade someone to break both religious law and the law of the land.

The MKs added this could also have severe economic repercussions, as Jewish businessmen might not want to invest money here if doing so means being a party to Shabbat desecration.



AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW	HIGH	WIND
Amsterdam	06	43	08
Berlin	07	34	10
Buenos Aires	17	23	27
Cairo	11	25	18
Chicago	12	18	24
Copenhagen	08	13	17
Frankfurt	08	13	17
Geneva	08	13	17
Helsinki	07	19	04
London	11	18	17
Los Angeles	14	27	18
Madrid	07	13	17
Moscow	08	13	17
New York	08	13	17
Paris	08	13	17
Rome	08	13	17
Stockholm	08	13	17
Sydney	16	28	28
Tokyo	04	18	18
Toronto	14	17	04
Warsaw	06	13	10

Winning cards

In yesterday's daily Chance drawing, the winning cards were the 10 of spades, jack of hearts, eight of diamonds and king of clubs.

BACKGROUND

From Rehov Bar-Ilan to Ramat Aviv

By HERB KERNON

If you thought the haredi-secular confrontation on Jerusalem's Rehov Bar-Ilan was full of "action," consider the following scenario: a convoy of cars driving through Bnei Brak on Shabbat.

That is exactly what no less a personage than Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo suggested Sunday night at a Tel Aviv City Council meeting, if the Africa-Israel Company goes ahead with plans to keep its soon-to-be-completed mall in Ramat Aviv closed on Shabbat.

The convoys dovetail nicely with other threats Milo has made against Africa-Israel and its controlling shareholder, Lev Leviev, if they close the mall on Shabbat.

Degel Hatorah MKs Moshe Gafni and Avraham Ravitz filed a complaint with the police last week against Milo and Deputy Mayor Dan Darin (Meretz), for declaring the city would boycott Africa-Israel and deny them building rights if the mall is closed on Shabbat.

Yesterday Gafni said he will

file another complaint against Milo for his threat to lead the convoys into Bnei Brak. He noted this would be illegal, since Shabbat traffic on Bnei Brak's residential streets is banned by local ordinance.

At issue is the Ramat Aviv mall, and such values as the right of a businessman to do what he wants with his business, and the right of the public to shop and eat McDonald's cheeseburgers on Saturday. Leviev has within a matter of weeks gone from an anonymous millionaire to a household name.

A man who made his fortune in diamonds, Leviev is reportedly now being blessed by Rav Eliezer Schach for standing by his religious principles and cursed by Am Hofshi, a group of secular activists threatening a consumer boycott of the mall.

Leviev, who wears a black kippa and is rumored to have a connection with Habad, acquired 46 percent of the controlling shares in Africa-Israel in November for \$189 million.

The business daily *Globe* reported that he plunked this money down "out of his own pocket." Leviev, one of Israel's biggest diamond exporters, holds interests in diamond mines in various countries and is also active in currency trading.

Soon after taking over Africa-Israel, Leviev instructed a representative of the company to see to what extent its holdings were violating Shabbat.

Earlier this month Africa-Israel's board decided that when the mall opens in a few months' time, it will close its doors on Shabbat.

That was what it took to send everyone to their moral barricades: the religious saying Leviev has the right to close the mall on Shabbat, even if it is in a mainly secular area, since the mall is his; and the secular saying that Leviev, indeed their very freedom in secular Tel Aviv, are under the gun.

Overnight, the Ramat Aviv mall joined Rehov Bar-Ilan, the City of David archaeological digs, the Ramat Aviv, the Ramat swimming pool, the Tiberias hotels, the French Hill interchange and Mea Shearim as yet another milestone in the never-ending Wars of the Jews. The issues remain the same: only the name and locations seem to change — and at increasingly frequent intervals.

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